

beluga were around 400 cm. in length, their weight is calculated to be about 935 kilograms⁴; the grey-coloured sub-adult measured 275 cm. and had a computed weight of 350 kilograms.

There appears no reason to doubt that the hunter reporting this event had, as he believed, discovered the beluga shortly after they were caught in March, nor that the tracks of the medium-sized female bear near the carcasses at that time were those of the predator. According to the description given, such a bear would weigh in the range of 130 to 180 kilograms, or about one-fifth the probable weight of each adult beluga it had successfully killed and removed from the water.

The only other reports on bears killing beluga I can find in the literature appear contradictory. One asserts that, in the Baffin Bay region, at small openings in the ice where whales are sometimes trapped in winter, "a small flock of bears will congregate and kill a small whale, which they will then drag up on to the ice and eat"⁵. The other commentary, relating to the Eurasian arctic, suggests that attacks on beluga by single bears are quite frequent, and that when a bear discovers a pod of trapped whales it remains nearby and successively kills them (up to 13 are reliably reported²).

This present report of a multiple killing by a solitary bear, substantiated by direct inspection shortly after the event, establishes that there is no difference between Eurasian and North American polar bears in regard to this predatory behaviour.

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Mammal and Bird Names in the Indian Languages of the Lake Athabasca Area

When Lake Athabasca first became known to white men in the eighteenth century, the area to the south and west of the lake was inhabited by Beaver Indians, part of the north shore and the Slave River area belonged to the Slave Indian domain, whereas Chipewyans lived about the eastern extremity of the lake. These three tribes belong to the larger Athapaskan or Dené group of people which, in the aggregate, occupied all of what is now western Canada from the land of the Eskimos south to that which was then controlled by the Crees and related Algonkian tribes such as the Blackfoot, Blood and Piegans (1:378).

The Beaver Indians were driven out of the Lake Athabasca area before 1760 by Cree bands who had obtained firearms from fur traders on Hudson Bay. The eastern Beaver, after making peace with the Cree, traded at Fort Chipewyan for a short period, but gave up the Athabasca portion of their former range when fur trading posts were established on the Peace River (1:383). The Cree invasion which expelled the Beaver Indians from part of their earlier range, also drove out the closely related Slaves (this was not what they called themselves) of the Lake Athabasca area. About 1725, the Cree area in this region had extended northward along the Athabasca River valley only to a point somewhat south of McMurray. War with the Beavers, Slaves and Chipewyans carried a number of Cree bands north as far as Lake Athabasca and beyond down the Slave River valley to the south shore of Great Slave Lake. In 1760, the Crees and Chipewyans made peace and became the sole native inhabitants of the region. Crees naturally predominate in the western and Chipewyans in the eastern part of the area.

Our word "Chipewyan" derives from the Cree name "witshipeean" for their Athapaskan neighbours; it means "pointed skins", referring either to the form in which they dried their beaver skins, or the shape of their original skin shirt tails which were pointed, like those of the Eskimo, before and behind (1:385). The word "Chipewyan" must not be confused, as is sometimes done in newspapers, with "Chippewa" (Chippewan as an adjective), a synonym of "Ojibwa", both names for the eastern and equally Algonkian, closely related neighbours of the Crees. The Chipewyans, like the Athapaskans generally and the Eskimos, simply called themselves *the people*: "dené" in their own language.

The word "Cree" is an Anglicization of the French "Cri", itself a contraction of "Kristineaux", the French form of a name of unknown meaning by which a portion of the tribe called itself.

Neither tribe can be said to have been a political unit at any time for the only features which linked the members of each were a common language and customs, both reflecting a common ancestry.

In connection with the material presented below, it is worth pointing out that the Chipewyans led little more than a marginal existence as hunters, fishers and gatherers, in an environment which, as a whole, was poor in game though better supplied with fish, and in a climate which is very hostile to natural human existence for eight months a year. Under these conditions, their life was inevitably crude and their culture primitive. There would be little leisure to discuss small birds and to evolve names for species which even a trained white person can only distinguish with the help of binoculars and a field guide, or the collecting gun. Edible animals large enough to be worth killing for food, on the other hand, played an important part in the life of these people and had distinctive names, as did the dog, their one domestic animal.

The Crees belong to a radically different racial and linguistic family — that of the Algonkians which originally occupied Canada from the Maritimes and Quebec to the Rocky Mountains. The Crees, who invaded the area under consideration, were both Wood and Plains Crees.

Even before the evolution of the horse-buffalo culture, the Cree way of life was more advanced than that of the Chipewyans, probably in reflection of a somewhat less hostile environment. Particularly relevant to the evolution of language, the life of the Crees was one of greater leisure. It was less primitive, as shown, for example, in the treatment of widows and orphans and the social position of women.

Cree is not only more euphonious than any of the Athapaskan languages with their frequent guttural, harsh sounds, it is also more complex and these features are evident in the animal names listed below.

The lists given below are, of course, not complete in the sense that a native name is given for every species for which some one, Cree, Chipewyan or métis in the Lake Athabasca area knows such a name. This would have required interviews with just about all of these people. However, as the lists were collected by one with a special interest in birds and mammals (and this does not generally apply to the compilers of dictionaries), they do, in fact, contain more native names of species or species

groups (generic names in the linguistic, not the zoological sense) than the dictionaries of the languages in question known to me. These are, for Chipewyan: Petittot²; for Cree: LaCombe,³ Watkins⁴ and Anderson.⁵

My informants for Cree names were Mr. Henry Powder, a long-time resident of Camsell Portage, Saskatchewan, originally from Lac la Biche, Alberta; Mr. Solomon Cardinal of Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, and Mrs. A. Anderson of Edmonton, originally from the nearby Calahoo Indian Reserve, who has edited a Plains-Cree-English dictionary.⁵

The Chipewyan names were obtained in 1972 from Mr. F. Marcel, chief of the Chipewyan band at Fort Chipewyan. I have also drawn on a list I prepared in 1949 with the help of Mr. George Norm, an elderly Chipewyan or métis who lived at the mouth of the Little Buffalo River on Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. It is of interest as reflecting the relative degree of development of the Chipewyan and Cree languages to note that Mr. Marcel, who speaks fluent English, told me that although himself a Chipewyan, he speaks Cree equally readily and much preferred, when making a speech, to use Cree.

The literal meanings (in a few cases obvious, since the same roots occur in the names of different animals which share some common feature) were obtained from the same informants. I have no doubt that a linguist, who knows either of the two languages thoroughly, could deduce more about the etymology of a number of the names given. However, many of the names, e.g. those of animals as basic to aboriginal life as dog, bear, grouse, almost certainly were evolved to designate solely the animal in question and were not made up, as very many English animal names are, from other words or parts of words. There are, of course, also many English animal names which are basic in this sense.

The column headed *comments* which follows the native names gives the literal meaning of the name, if available, in some cases followed by other relevant remarks. A few more general comments which could not be fitted into the space available in these columns follow the tables.

The simple method used here to represent the sounds of the native words in our alphabet for English-speaking readers must be explained. The consonants are to be pronounced as in English, with the exception of *ch*; this is not, as in general English usage, to be pronounced like *tsh*, but as a harsh, guttural sound as in the Scottish *Loch* (or German *Dach*, *flach*, etc.). The vowels are to be pronounced as follows:

a is long as in *father* (not as in *matter* or *and*), just as it sounds in German or French.

(Continued on page 170)

TABLE 1. Native names of mammals in the lake Athabasca area. Residence of informants in column headings; exceptions are names marked with an asterisk, obtained, in the case of Chipewyan, near Fort Resolution, Northwest Territories, and in the case of Cree, in Edmonton, Alberta.

English and Scientific Name	Chipewyan (Fort Chipewyan)	Comments	Cree (Fort Chipewyan and Camsell Portage)	Comments
Shrew			tsheepokotésees*	tsheepo = sharp koté = nose sees = diminutive
bat	dshonné	flying mouse	apachgoatsees	
black bear <i>Ursus americanus</i>	sass		maskooa	
grizzly bear <i>Ursus horribilis</i>	sass tsho	bear big	meestachaya	big, strong
marten <i>Martes americana</i>	sa — a short but sounded as defined		wapstshanees	
fisher <i>Martes pennanti</i>	sa tsho	marten big	otshek	
weasel <i>Mustela erminea and rixosa</i>	techkalé		sichoos	
mink <i>Mustela vison</i>	testshoosé		sakooees	
wolverine <i>Gulo luscus</i>	nabé		kechkooahakeoo	
river otter <i>Lutra canadensis</i>	nambé	fast swimmer	nekek	
spotted skunk <i>Spilogale putorius</i>	nooltee	smells strong	sheekaak	it smells
badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>			meestanask	
red fox <i>Vulpes fulva</i>	nageechtaroy	name contains a reference to red	saoo macheesees or shawach keesees	literally = red fox
arctic fox <i>Alopex lagopus</i>	tshichpa	pa = white	wapskaoo macheesees	wa = white, hence white fox
coyote <i>Canis latrans</i>	nunnitshallé alie	wolf small	mistshaganeesees	the bastard or hy- brid, neither wolf nor fox
gray wolf <i>Canis lupus</i>	nunneea		maychan or maychgan	
domestic dog	shee		ateem	
mountain lion <i>Felis concolor</i>			meestacheseeoo*	meesta = large as cheseeoo, resembles beseoo lynx; it can be taken to mean large cat-like or feline
lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i>	tseeshé		beseeoo	
seal			akeek	
woodchuck <i>Marmota monax</i>			weenshagatshé	
Richardson ground squirrel, <i>Citellus richardsoni</i>			upees tshanooskos*	
Thirteen-lined ground squirrel, <i>Citellus tridecemlineatus</i>			sasagawaptssoos	very active
Franklin ground squirrel <i>Citellus franklini</i>			mistsha- neekooatshas*	mist = big, hence big ground squirrel
least chipmunk <i>Eutamias minimus</i>	thalgoosee	thal = sand goosee = jumps hence sand jumper	tsasagawooaps	
red squirrel <i>Sciurus hudsonicus</i>	gleéé		nakooatshass or sagao neekooatshas	woodland squirrel
northern flying squirrel, <i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>			sanaska taoosee or asohaos	aso = he crosses (from tree to tree)

<i>English and Scientific name</i>	<i>Chipewyan (Fort Chipewyan)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Cree (Fort Chipewyan and Camsell Portage)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
mouse	donné		paksees	I was told there were distinct names for certain species of mice, voles and shrews
beaver <i>Castor canadensis</i>	tsha		amisk	
muskrat <i>Ondatra zibethica</i>	tshenn		watshass	
porcupine <i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	tsee		kakooa	
Arctic hare <i>Lepus arcticus</i>			meestapoos*	meesta=large, poos from wapoos="rabbit"
white-tailed jack-rabbit <i>Lepus townsendi</i>			meestapoos*	meesta=large, apoos from wapoos="rabbit"
snowshoe hare <i>Lepus americanus</i>	ga	ga like pa=white	wapoos	wa=white in reference to its white winter coat; as poos' kaoo=he moults; possibly 'white moult' in reference to the seasonal color change
elk <i>Cervus canadensis</i>			waskeesoo*	
mule deer <i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>			apsee moosees*	little moose
white-tailed deer <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>			yachtua or wa payoos	wa payoos=white waving tail
moose <i>Alces americana</i>	denecé		mooswa	English moose is derived from the animal's Algonkian name
caribou woodland caribou <i>Rangifer caribou</i>	et'thenn thantsié et'thenn		atich or atik sakau atik	woodlands caribou
barren ground caribou <i>Rangifer arcticus</i>	ot'thelié thenné		paskooa atik	prairie, i.e. open country caribou
(pronghorn) <i>Antilocapra americana</i>			oopsta tsheekos*	small sheep, c.f. meeatshEEKOS = domestic sheep
bison <i>Bison bison</i>	edsheeré	domestic cattle are also called by this name	mustus	bull
wood bison <i>Bison bison athabascae</i>			sakao mustus	woodlands bison
prairie bison <i>Bison bison bison</i>			paskaoo mustus	prairie bison
(bighorn sheep) <i>Ovis canadensis</i>			asseeneooatseeatek* or watsheeco mayatek	
(mountain goat) <i>Oreamnos americanus</i>			watshee wapateek** wa=white	
domestic horse	shee tsho or thleen tsho	big dog; this designation also in the other Athapaskan languages, does not imply that the horse was thought to resemble the dog in build but in function, as another servant of man like the dog.	meestateem	big dog

TABLE 2. Native bird names in the lake Athabasca area.

English and Scientific Name	Chipewyan (Fort Chipewyan)	Comments	Cree (Fort Chipewyan and Camsell Portage)	Comments
common loon, <i>Gavia immer</i>	ta tsenné	bill black	makooa	flat breast (ed bird)
yellow-billed loon, <i>Gavia adamsii</i>	thal kay	bill white		
Arctic loon, <i>Gavia arctica</i>	theelbé*			
red-throated loon, <i>Gavia stellata</i>	thiantsee*		makooa aphisit	loon small; this is the smallest of all loons
(western grebe) <i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>			wapsichgi	white grebe
red-necked grebe <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	notcha tshok	diver large	sichgi	grebe
smaller grebes: — <i>Podiceps auritus</i> — <i>Podiceps caspicus</i> — <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	notcha tsellé	diver small	sichgi	grebe
white pelican, <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>			tshachtshagoo	
cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax</i> (only <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> occurs)			kachkagoosheesip	raven duck
whistling swan, <i>Olor columbianus</i>	ga goos	ga = white	oshoashoo myapshoo or wapsoo*	yellow (referring to the spot on the bill) swan all white
Canada goose, <i>Branta canadensis</i>	cha	no doubt a rendering of the call. Large forms = cha tshok. Small forms = cha tsellé.	nisga	
white-fronted goose, <i>Anser albifrons</i>	da t'eth	burnt beak; this may have been suggested by the colours of the beak and forehead.	otsheekapasees	striped chest, cf., the English vernacular name, speckle-belly.
snow goose, <i>Chen hyperborea</i>	cho ga	cho is probably a rendering of the call; ga = white, hence white cho caller.	we wheoo	a rendering of the call, basis of the vernacular name, wavy
Ross' goose, <i>Chen rossii</i>	hoka looré	hoka derives from choga, looré = scabby (on bill)	apshees weewheoo or keepootsak	Small snow goose short beak, a feature which distinguishes this from the snow goose
mallard, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	tsheth tshok	duck big	enseep, drake = napéseep duck = nosé seep	
pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i>	otchel tshethé	prairie, i.e., grassland duck	kinokwayéooosip	long-necked duck
shoveller, <i>Spatula clypeata</i>	daskaré	flat bill	ayakagotsheooseep	wide-billed duck
teal, <i>Anas discors</i> and <i>carolinensis</i>	edshonassé	little one	apeestseepes	small duck
redhead and canvasback <i>Aythya americana</i> and <i>valsneria</i>	tháeeoe	thick neck	meeshik-wayawoosheep	big-necked duck
scaups, probably also the ring-necked duck, <i>Aythya marila</i> , <i>affinis</i> and <i>collaris</i>			nanatahawooseep	local English name is fall duck
common goldeneye, <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	bedshee yel asé*	big head	kokeesap	
bufflehead, <i>Bucephala albeola</i>	tha gel keease		wapaneeosip	white-cheeked duck
old squaw, <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	honk allé*	a rendering of the male's spring call	ahaweeo	a rendering of the male's spring call

English and Scientific Name	Chipewyan (Fort Chipewyan)	Comments	Cree (Fort Chipewyan and Camsell Portage)	Comments
white-winged scoter, <i>Melanitta deglandi</i>	toolsee etshing koy	scoter wing white, tollsee conveys the idea of a black dot on the water — the appearance a scoter presents at a distance	kasketeooseep	black duck
surf scoter, <i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	toolsee	scoter	apshisit kaske teooseep	small scoter
ruddy duck, <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>			peesekotaskooay	mostly throat — ? in reference to male's inflated neck in display
merganser, <i>Mergus merganser</i> and <i>serrator</i>	toth		oseek or genoshooseesip	Second name means fish duck
goshawk, <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	tsissé tshok	big grey jay, in reference to the similar colour patterns of the two	peepeenassoo	peepon = winter, whole name means (hawk) that winters or winter hawk
marsh hawk, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	t's' thloatay*		notshé' eegeeweeoo	hunting frogs
sharp-shinned hawk, <i>Accipiter striatus</i>			peepegsees	probably from distress call when disturbed at nest
red-tailed hawk, <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> ; probably other buteos too			sachgootamo*	
golden eagle, <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> <i>Aquilaesry-sestosephalus</i>	detoné tsho or detan tshok	flier big	keeheeo	from a call?
bald eagle, <i>Haliaetus leucocephalus</i>	detone tsho or detan tshok	flier big	meeeksoo	
osprey, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	tst' theeé		aspoonass or keeheesees	small eagle, 2nd name
peregrine falcon, <i>Falco peregrinus</i>			kekech	from the call?
sparrow hawk, <i>Falco sparverius</i>			otsheepamosees	
spruce grouse, <i>Canachites canadensis</i>	t'dee	probably from the call	oskatagaoo peheoo	jackpine grouse
ruffed grouse, <i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	et'theree	pounding, in reference to male's spring drumming	sakaoo peheoo or wapeskayas peheoo	forest or bush grouse; 2nd name white meat grouse
sharp-tailed grouse, <i>Pediacetes phasianellus</i>	etchay*		paskooaoo peheoo	prairie grouse
willow ptarmigan, <i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	gaspa	ga = white, so whole name probably means the white one	wa peheoo	white grouse
(grey partridge) <i>Perdix perdix</i>			peeheisees*	grouse small; the peehei part of the name, much like peheoo indicates close relationship of this introduced bird to the native grouse is recognized
Great blue heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>			moochkasoo or meesee moka haessoo*	large moka caller
American bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>			shawasees or moka haseeoo	Second name, moka, is a passable rendering of the first two loud syllables of a bittern's booming which has a third softer component

<i>English and Scientific Name</i>	<i>Chipewyan (Fort Chipewyan)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Cree (Fort Chipewyan and Camsell Portage)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
whooping crane, <i>Grus americana</i>	t'del delkay	crane white	wapetshak	white crane
sandhill crane, <i>Grus canadensis</i>	t'delth	crane	otshetshak	crane
sora rail, <i>Porzana carolina</i>			papagapechpeesees	
American coot, <i>Fulica americana</i>	tsath anné	anné = forehead; name possibly means bald forehead	tshakek	possibly from the call
killdeer, <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>			tsaspagaganesees	refers to the collar as a necklace
yellow legs, <i>Totanus flavipes and melanoleucus</i>	tsanchkeesee		sessesoo	perhaps in reference to the often tri-syllabic call
northern phalarope, <i>Lagopus lobatus</i>			pachfagkapicht-shesees	
common snipe, <i>Capella gallinago</i>			patshakabass	
parasitic jaeger, <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			weetsheepcean kiask	Chipewyan gull
gull, generic	beskayé		kiask	
Franklin's and Bonaparte's gull, <i>Larus pipixcan and philadelphia</i>			kasketoosegooan kiask	black-headed gull
tern, generic	beskay keessé		taskateneoo kiask	fork (tailed) gull
dove, pigeon <i>Columbia livia</i>			omeemeesees	probably from the call of the mourning dove
great horned owl, <i>Bubo virginianus</i>	motsaré		oohoo	from the call
short-eared owl, <i>Asio flammeus</i>			amshkohos	
snowy owl, <i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	yellach pa	pa = white	wapooohoo	white owl
great grey owl, <i>Strix nebulosa</i>			kochkokooohoo	
hawk owl, <i>Surnia ulula</i>			ootsheepamoosees	
boreal and saw-whet owl, <i>Aegolius funereus and acadicus</i>			kaooesheesikesees	
common nighthawk, <i>Chordeiles minor</i>	theree	refers to the wavering flight	peeskwo	refers to the call
hummingbird			amopíesees	bee bird, amo = bee pieesees = bird
belted kingfisher, <i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>			kiskoomanasoo	
large woodpeckers	detshen tsee		papasteoo	papa = to tap
smaller woodpeckers			papatsis	tapper small
swallow	tsanlsee		mistshagosees	
(blue jay) <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	tooétoóésoo			
grey jay, <i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	tseesé		wooesketsan	
black-billed magpie, <i>Pica pica</i>			apistshigagasees	small raven
common raven, <i>Corvus corax</i>	datshan tsok	crow large	kachgagoo	from the call
common crow, <i>Corvus brachyrhynchus</i>	datshan tsellé	crow small	hahasoo	from the call
chickadee, generic	tseskassé	probably from the call	peetsheegesees	probably from the call

English and Scientific Name	Chipewyan (Fort Chipewyan)	Comments	Cree (Fort Chipewyan and Camsell Portage)	Comments
house wren, <i>Troglodytes aedon</i>			maneetopíésees*	mantsus = bug, so bug-eating, i.e. insectivorous bird
robin, <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	tshoe tseehé		peepee tsoo	calls peepee
bluebird, generic	iniesé déklas	bird blue	sheepeekopiesees	small blue bird
waxwing, generic			otsogohamanesees	name contains a reference to the head crest
shrike, generic			ooeetego piesees	cannibal bird, as it kills other small birds
yellow warbler, <i>Dendroica petechia</i>	etsalé*		osaoopiesees	yellow bird
western meadowlark, <i>Sturnella neglecta</i>			pichtooe tshawasooos*	possibly a rendering of the song, the rhythm and changes of pitch of the word are suggestive of the song
red-winged blackbird, <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> yellow-headed blackbird, <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	klok tsanné	klok = hay meadow or grass marsh, in reference to the bird's habitat	tsatsagayoo peesookataskooay	large throat (of male in song)
evening and pine grosbeak <i>Hesperiphona vespertina</i> and <i>Pinicola enucleator</i>			piponpiesees sheespaskootateek piesis	winter bird, also used for the snow bunting; 2nd name maple bird, specifically for the evening grosbeak.
redpolls, generic			otseechumsees	lousy bird, perhaps their restlessness is taken to suggest they are plagued by lice
snow bunting <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	thoklasé	turns white, i.e. on taking wing the previously brownish bird flashes white wings	wapayachgosees	wa = white

e is pronounced as in *end*, *tent*, etc. (never, whatever letter may follow it, like *e* in *seam*).

é a long *e* sound is shown as *é*, to be pronounced as in French, e.g. in *donné*.

i the short *i* sound as in *sit* or *bit* is represented by *i*, but this is never sounded like *i* in *mind* or *kind*; the sound indicated by *i* in these words is written as *ay*.

ee the long *i* sound represented by *i* in French and German is, corresponding to English usage, written as *ee*.

o is to be pronounced as in French *mot* (or German *Ton*), not as a compound sound as it generally is in English.

oo is pronounced as in *moon* or *loon*; this is the equivalent of the German *u* or French *ou*.

u used once, only, is to be pronounced like the French *u* or as this letter with a diaeresis is pronounced in German.

An apostrophe between two letters is to suggest a slight pause between the sounds they represent, e.g. in *et'thenn* (caribou in Chipewyan). The letters *th* are to be pronounced as in English *there* or *wither*.

Since neither of these two native languages had writing and even Cree is but rarely written with our letters, a stabilizing factor present in literate languages is absent in Chipewyan and Cree. This seems to have allowed a proliferation of variants of words, e.g. in Chipewyan, *white* is represented by *kay* or *koy* in animal names as spoken by different individuals; examples of even greater differences can be observed.

COMMENTS

It is of interest that three Cree animal names (or their equivalent in some other Algonkian tongue) have formed the basis of English words. They are: moose, from *mooswa*; Whiskey Jack (for the Grey Jay) from *wooeesketsan*, according to Avis⁶ via an earlier new archaic English derivative, Whiskey-John; and wavy,

for the snow goose, from wee wheeoo, a rendering of its call. "Moose" must have come into usage by Europeans unaware of the fact that the north European representative of the animal they so designated had long been called "elk" in English. When they or their descendants travelled further west and met the North American representative of the Old World red deer, they added to the confusion by calling this animal the elk.

Some of the Cree bird names are quite systematic, i.e., a syllable common to a number of species names indicates that all are representatives of a related group. Thus all but two of the duck names end in seep, duck; only the name for the old squaw, which is an imitation of its call, and that of the rather atypical ruddy duck, are exceptions to this. Grouse and ptarmigan species all have names ending with peheoo, grouse, while the introduced partridge has been aptly named small grouse. This trend is again shown in the Cree names of the large owls, all ending in the name, itself based on the bird's call, given to the great horned owl. It is of interest that onomatopoeic naming has led to exactly the same name being used in Cree for the owl just named, to the German name (written Uhu) for its closest Old World relative, the eagle owl. Oohoo as an imitation of the latter bird's call, is evidently also the basis of the French word, hibou, for owl in general.

The Cree name for the cormorant, meaning raven duck, is also of linguistic interest for it recalls an archaic English name for this bird, sea crow. In its Latin form, *Corvus marinus*, this name gave rise to the French *cormoran*, and this in turn to the English *cormorant*.

As the Cree and Chipewyan names collected for this list are folk names, whereas many "official" English bird names are scientific replacements of a variety of local folk names, it is not surprising that the proportion of native bird names which simply use an imitation of the bird's most typical call as its name is greater than in English.

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University of Colorado 1972 Field Season on East Baffin Island

SEA ICE

Studies of surface energy budgets on the fast ice at Broughton Island (67°35'N., 63°50'W.) were undertaken from late May to August 1972. The program included micrometeorological measurements on the fast ice and ice thickness surveys. Climatological observations including radiation studies begun in June 1971 by The Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research at a site in Broughton village were continued. The summer of 1972 was one of unusually severe ice conditions for this section of Davis Strait, and the results of our winter 1971-72 and summer 1972 fieldwork are being examined together with synoptic data in an attempt to understand this situation. Meteorological satellite data are being analyzed to obtain regional extrapolations of synoptic surface energy budgets.

BOAS GLACIER

The Boas Glacier was visited in early June, at which time snow pits and probing were used to estimate the winter balance. The mean snow depth based on 190 probes was 0.948 m. with a standard error of ± 0.06 m. Average snow density was 0.326 g./cm.³ giving a specific winter balance of 0.31 m. H₂O. The glacier could not be visited in August due to extremely bad ice conditions, but on the basis of the weather in previous years we predict that the