

of man, but if annoyed or hungry he will not hesitate to include human flesh in his diet. The animals are large, incredibly swift for their size, cunning and exceedingly dangerous.

Arctic hare (*lepus arcticus andersoni*) is another interesting animal. It remains white throughout the year and on Ellesmere Island is gregarious. Several hundred of them may be noted gathered in a place at one time. Needless to say it is an important source of food for wolves, foxes and the natives.

Undoubtedly the most important terrestrial mammal in the Arctic is the barren ground caribou (*Rangifer arcticus*). The flesh is excellent and the hide is a major item in the manufacture of native clothing. The coarse hairs are hollow and lie close together, providing a thick layer of insulation which can not be duplicated by any manufactured wear. Practically every part has a use. The antlers are used for making tools and implements, the flesh and fat for food, sinews for sewing and such delicacies as bone marrow, the green contents of the stomach and the warble fly larvae from the region of the back supplement an otherwise monotonous diet.

During the past few years there has been a general serious reduction in the abundance of the caribou, a matter of great concern to the wildlife experts, and in areas where native peoples depend upon the herds entirely for a livelihood it has been a matter of tragedy.

And where there are caribou there are wolves, (*Canis lupus*) picking off the old, the weak and sometimes the young of the caribou herds. As long as their numbers do not reach unproportionate heights they are beneficial to the caribou in that they keep the herds strong and healthy.

Eskimos fear wolves and have some taboos concerning them. The spirits embodied in the wolves are assessed to be not good, probably because they kill the caribou constantly and often will lure

Eskimo huskies into the hills to tear them apart.

The Eskimos also call the Police "Amarok",²⁸ explaining that they hunt in the same way. They say the Police do not go after just anyone, but that when they must hunt a man they pick out the individual and pursue him constantly until they effect his capture, just as the wolf will pick out a certain caribou and chase it until the quarried animal drops in its tracks from sheer exhaustion.

Marine animals play the most important part of all in the Eastern Arctic economy. In this land the Eskimos live on the coastline and direct all their hunting skills and energies toward the capture of sea animals. These animals also supply all of those things which land animals afford, but of special contribution are the skins which are suited to the manufacture of waterproof boots called "Kumiks".

The main item of food for the coastal dwellers is seal meat, which they prefer as a steady diet to caribou or any other

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²⁸"Amarok", Eskimo word meaning wolf.