

habitats must be protected in a uniform manner as whole ecological systems extending across the border.

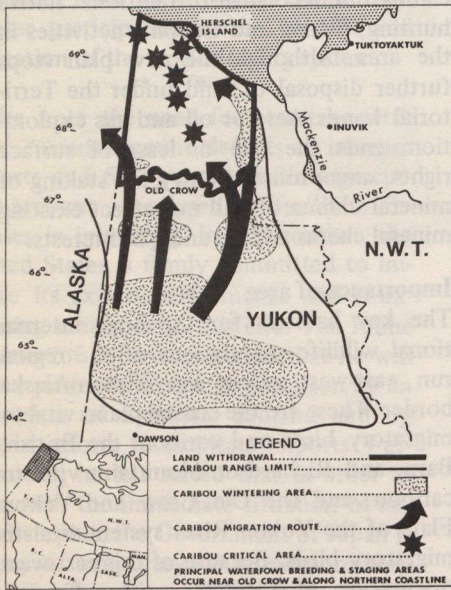
The Porcupine caribou herd, constituting some 20 per cent of North America's caribou, is one of the last great free roaming caribou herds in the world. Responsibility for its protection is shared jointly by Canada and the U.S.

The Yukon Coastal Plain and the Old Crow Flats provide essential habitat for several million migratory birds each summer and fall. They include geese, swans, ducks, loons, shorebirds, gulls and terns. These birds are, by treaty, the shared responsibility of the U.S. and Canada.

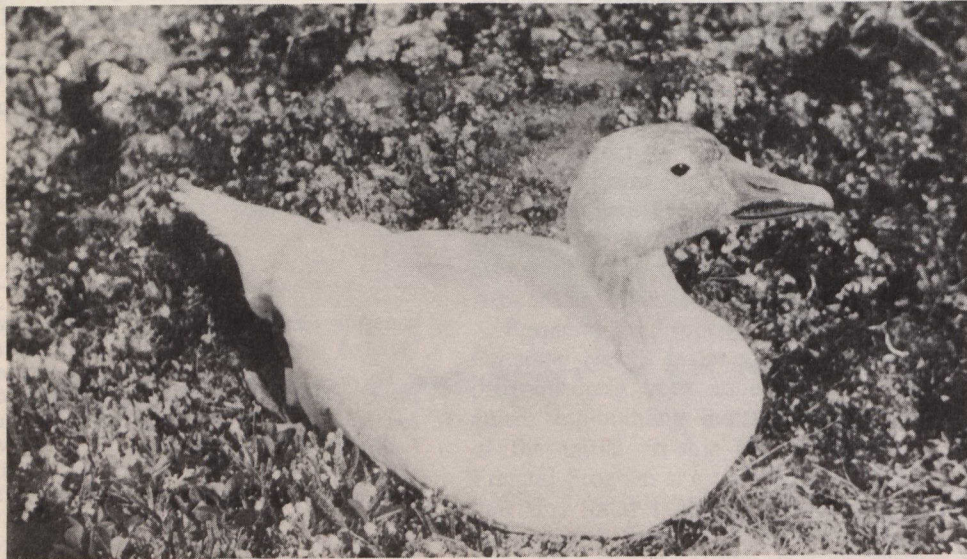
Other important species include the endangered peregrine falcon as well as polar bear, black bear, barren-ground grizzly, Dall's sheep, golden eagle, arctic char and chum salmon.



*Polar bears roam on the ice pans at Norwegian Bay, NWT.*



*An Arctic tern, Ellesmere Island, NWT.*



*Snowgoose, Bylot Island, NWT.*

Most of the area lies within the Beringian Refugium – an unglaciated area of Siberia, Alaska and the Yukon during the Illinoian and Wisconsin glaciations. It is the only extensive non-glaciated area in Canada and is perhaps the only area where Arctic tundra, alpine tundra and boreal forest can be observed in their natural condition in the same location. This absence of glaciation has resulted in the preservation of rich archaeological and palaeontological evidence which traces man's entrance into North America some 30,000 years ago. In fact, the oldest human remains yet discovered in the Western Hemisphere were in the Northern Yukon area. The continuous human history evolving in harmony with the environment since that time represents a rich legacy.