

summer months. Black bears are found throughout the whole region, but not in great numbers.

When Samuel Hearne visited the region in 1772, great herds of wood bison roamed over the level country about the mouths of the Taltson and Slave rivers, but their range apparently never extended eastward into the rocky country. They have long since disappeared from the country east of Slave river and only a remnant of their former numbers is now found on the west side of that stream.

An occasional woodland caribou, it is said, is shot by the Indians in the western portion of the Taltson River basin; but, like the wood bison, the range of this animal does not extend far eastward into the rocky country. Wolves frequent the region at all times of the year and at certain seasons in considerable abundance, especially during the annual migrations of the Barren Ground caribou.

Nearly all the common fur-bearing animals are trapped in the region, but it cannot be said that any of them are abundant; they include the red, cross, and black fox and the otter, beaver, lynx, wolverine, marten, mink, muskrat, and ermine.

The lakes and streams of the region abound in fish, but the variety is not great. Nearly all the larger lakes contain lake trout and whitefish. Pike, suckers, and loche are found nearly everywhere in the rivers. The inconnu and grayling are caught in the lower part of the Taltson river below the last falls, but do not ascend to the upper parts of the stream.

INHABITANTS.

The only inhabitants of the region are Indians, whose numbers are not great. They belong to two tribes of the Athabaskan linguistic group, namely, the Chipewyans and the Dogribs. The latter occupy the region about the mouth of Taltson river and the shores of Great Slave lake, and trade at Resolution; the former occupy the central and upper portions of the Taltson River basin and the shores of Athabaska lake and trade at Fort Smith, Chipewyan, and Fond du Lac.