

The moss that grows on the tamaracks which almost invariably surround the barrens forms an important part of the food of the moose, and as the general moisture affords a convenient watering place we find the moose inhabiting these regions during the summer and autumn. Here they may be tracked by anyone having some experience in woodcraft, as the moss in many places retains the impression of the hoof very well.

But the other part of stalking; that of stealing on the moose under cover after we have come in sight of him, is extremely difficult. The senses of these animals being much more acute than those of man, if the hunter loses sight of his moose for a moment he may never see him again. When thus stealing on a moose I have found it a good plan never to lose sight of him. If he starts before a close range is reached a good shot with a good rifle can take his chances of bringing him down. And still I have, upon seeing a moose from the windward side of a barren, tramped round through the woods a mile or more so as to come upon him from the leeward and so stand a better chance of getting a shot.

But after all so far as summer or autumn hunting is concerned stalking is only an incidental. In the large majority of cases there is no very scientific principle involved in the capture of a moose. A man goes into a region where he knows there is game and tramps around until he strikes a fresh trail or sees an animal. As I said before, it is seldom that he follows a trail; but if he is acquainted with the country and observes a moose track heading for a lake or barren or other local haunt, he may with profit make a visit to that place if the trail is sufficiently fresh. If he sees a moose at long range he may stalk him, but if he comes upon one suddenly as I have done in the thick woods when one has only a second in which to shoot, a man must be very quick on the trigger.

This method of wandering at random over country where moose are known to be is especially adapted for autumn hunting when the moose are constantly wandering about. But we must not be carried away by the idea that the more ground a person covers the greater will be his chances of seeing game. This is a false presumption by which, doubtless, I have lost many a shot. At that time of year, so long as one keeps within certain limits, he is just as likely to see a moose in one place as another, so that if he moves slowly he has the same chance without making so much noise as when he rushes through the woods thus also giving the moose greater opportunity of scenting him.

A favorite method of moose hunting some years ago was running them down in the deep snow. This was made especially easy if there was a pretty heavy crust with just enough light snow over it to make good snow-shoeing. Under these conditions the hunter would start out on his snow-shoes to a place where he expected to find a moose yard—these animals stay nearly in one place all winter so long as it affords good feeding ground—and having started a