12. CHARACTERISTICS OF CARIBOU FROM THE WESTERN ARCTIC HERD KILLED BY WOLVES

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Between 1977 and 1979 we compared the age at death, sex, and bone marrow condition of samples of wolf-killed, hunter-killed and winterkilled caribou in the range of the Western Arctic Herd (WAH). In areas where snow was more than 45 to 90 cm deep wolves did not select for sex or age, and they killed caribou that were in apparently good physical condition. Where snow was shallower the caribou killed by wolves were in poor physical condition, and carcasses received more utilization than those from areas where snow was deep. The mean fat content of the femur marrow of the winter-killed caribou was about seven percent, and over 90 percent of these caribou were old bulls and calves.



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