

**(9) MULTIPLE KILLS BY GRIZZLY BEARS ON MUSKOXEN: EFFECTS ON PREDATOR AND PREY**

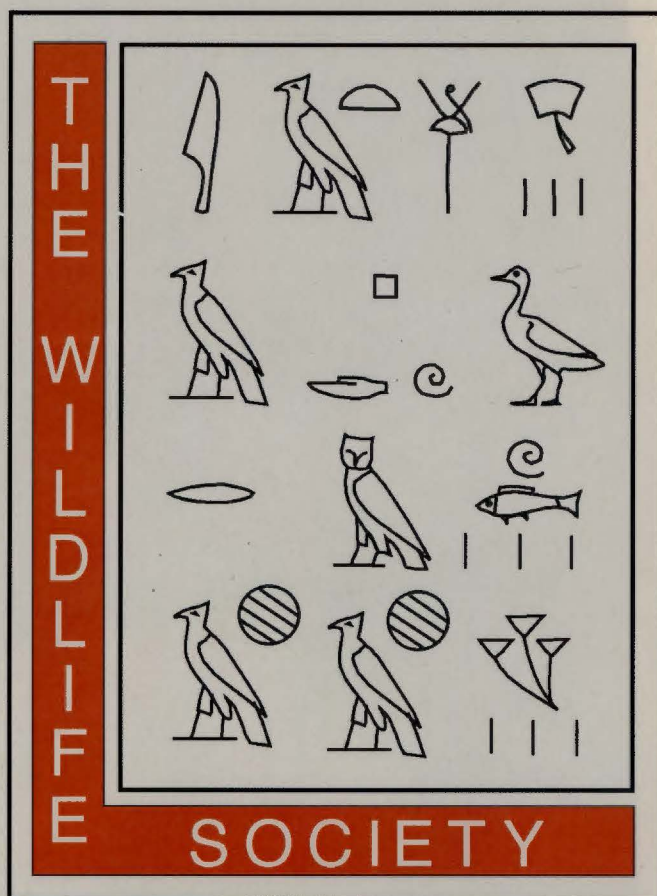
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*Abstract:* We documented 11 incidents of multiple kills of muskoxen (*Ovibos moschatus*) by grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) in northeastern Alaska in 1998–2003. Bears killed from 2 to 6 adult or subadult muskoxen from one group during these events. Muskoxen were killed at one time or over a period of several days. Of 47 muskoxen that were killed or wounded by grizzly bears in 1998–2003, 35 likely died during multiple kill events. Evidence indicated that at least some muskoxen defended themselves when attacked. Muskoxen ripped radio collars off grizzly bears and caused serious and fatal injuries to bears. Some muskoxen probably died from wounds rather than being killed outright. Multiple kills by grizzly bears increased mortality rates of adult muskoxen. Predation by bears may have caused groups of muskoxen to fracture and disperse and may have contributed to low numbers of calves through direct and indirect mortalities. Muskoxen provided a year-round source of protein for bears, which was particularly important in April and May when grizzly bears emerged from winter dens.



# PREDATOR-PREY 2004

JOINT CONFERENCE and ANNUAL MEETING  
NORTHWEST SECTION AND ALASKA CHAPTER OF  
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Alyeska Prince Hotel  
Girdwood, Alaska

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## Program & Abstracts

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