

Barren-Ground Caribou

Near the top of the world — from Alaska to Greenland—is the home of the Barren-Ground Caribou. As you might guess from its name, it spends most of its time where there are no trees or grass. Moss, lichens, and the dwarf shrubs are all it can find to nibble on.

This would not be nearly sufficient food for the Caribou if they spent their time in one small region. So they keep on the go. Roaming in herds, thousands of them range back and forth across the northern wastelands. With their broad, sharp hoofs, they have worn permanent trails in the ice, snow, and frozen earth.

They also move northward and southward with the changing seasons. The National Wildlife Federation reports that in the fall Barren-Ground Caribou head to the south. When they reach the fringes of the Canadian forests,



© National Wildlife Federation
Barren Ground Caribou

season to season, Barren-Ground Caribou also change a bit in size and shape. In the summer and fall, they store up fat along their backs. In some spots, this hump of tallow grows to be four to six inches thick.

The Caribou use their fat during the long winter, when there is little to eat. It slowly passes into their entire bodies and keeps them strong. By spring the fat is all gone.

The animals are slimmer then, but no one would have any trouble in recognizing them as sturdy members of the reindeer family. The male weighs about 300 lbs. He is four feet tall and a little over six feet long. The female is slightly smaller. Both the male and female wear broad antlers with many prongs.

As they roam, the Caribou know how to defend themselves against wolves and other animals, but they are no match for hunters. There were many more of the reindeer in the days before outsiders came to the north with guns.

Fortunately the Eskimos are more careful. They, too, kill caribou, but not recklessly. The northern people do not want to wipe out the herds, for they eat caribou meat and make clothing and tents from the hides. Bones are turned into needles, awls, and knives, and the antlers into fish-hooks and spears. So the Eskimos would be poor, indeed, if Barren-Ground Caribou were to disappear.

the husky animals find sheltering trees under which they spend the winter.

In the spring, the herds trot north again. As the snow thins out or disappears, they can graze on their favorite plants. They also grow their summer coats. The new hair is long and soft—gray or light brown on the ends and white underneath.

By the following fall, the dark ends are ready to break off. This leaves the caribou almost white in color, and it is harder to see when the snow covers the land.

Just as they change color from

Eagles Book Dance For Saturday Night

Aerie No. 3087, Fraternal Order of Eagles, in addition to the New Yeas Eve Dance, has also booked another dance for Saturday evening at the V. F. W. hall.

The Volunteer Firemen of the area have booked a Christmas dance, next Tuesday, at Chetco Grange hall. Funds from this big event are reserved for the annual Christmas treats to kiddies.

The Christmas tree has been

erected in front of the Central building, awaiting the Christmas eve festivities.

Weather Report

For the week ending on Sunday:

	Max.	Min.	Rain
December 10	74	41
December 11	78	54
December 12	72	54
December 13	54	39
December 14	55	36
December 17	42	34	T
December 16	53	44	.33
Rainfall for the week		 33



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