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Case, R.L. and R. Graf. 1986. **Abundance and distribution of muskoxen in central Keewatin, NWT, November 1985.** 19 pp

ABSTRACT

A systematic transect survey for muskoxen was carried out in the central Keewatin between 11 and 13 November 1985. The study area was bounded by Dubawnt Lake in the west, Yathkyed Lake in the east, the Kazan River in the south, and the Kunwak River in the north. A total of 318 muskoxen were observed, 258 on and 60 off transect. From the muskoxen observed on transect we obtained a population estimate of 1262 ± 563 S.E. muskoxen for the study area. We feel, however, that this estimate is probably high due to the low coverage of the survey and the clumped distribution of the muskox herds. Calves represented 17.9% (57/318) of the muskoxen observed. The mean herd size was 19.75 ± 23.02 S.D., with a range of 2-65 muskoxen. A quota increase of 20 muskoxen is recommended for Muskox Management Area J/1-1. Further surveys including the north part of the study area and the area north of the Kunwak River are also recommended.