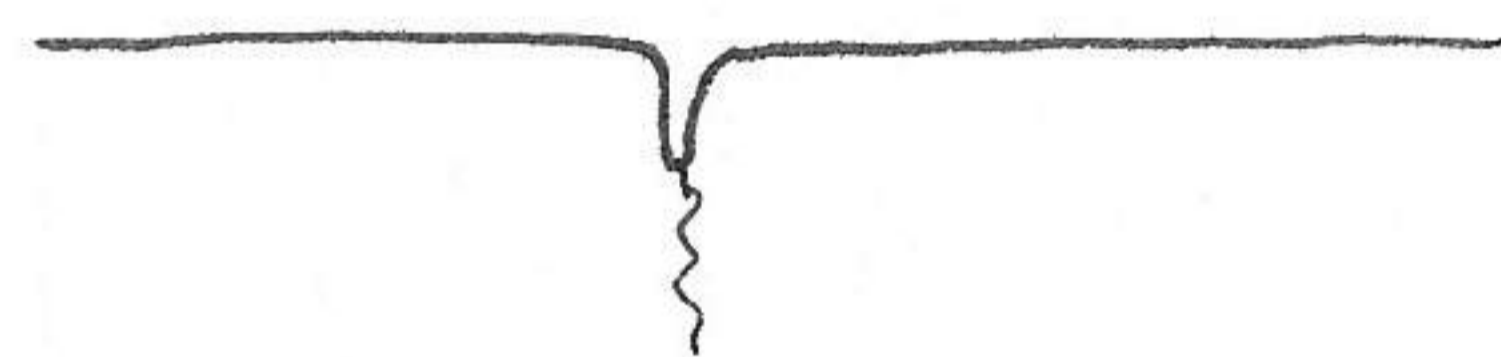


Topagaik, Alaska

July 9, 1951

Wind this A.M. to 40 miles per hour but pleasant as far as ^{Temp} temperature is concerned. Occasional blue sky above. Birds uncommon in areas where formerly numerous because of high wind. They could either be in grasses & sedges or out of area. Collected 1 Baird sandpiper?; 2^a Longspur. and one red-backed sandpiper. Examined river bank with approx 15 foot height. Sections had collapsed because of undercutting and lateral drainage. In cross-section of river bank mosses and lichens four feet thick and resting on sand. Other sections alternating sand and tundra indicating river overflow. The sands were moving along river and clouds of sand moving across horizon of tundra. Some dunes 20-30 feet high along river. Hexagonal and square ponds had ridges of the following profile. The fracture crevasses are higher than ponds. Some ridges have lost their fracture crevasses and are rounded ridges. Some fractures are just opening. The ponds and dikes remind one of the oriental paddy fields with irrigation canals built to carry water. From the air they are squarelike in outline.



This afternoon from 1:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. made cruise across tundra, traversing all varied vegetational and physiological communities. Cruised at about 1 ~~mile~~ mile per hour. Climate tundra in two physiographical physiographical situations, one on the broad flat uplands in which the tundra vegetation occupied the flat surface like gramma grasses of the prairies of temperate regions; the second a hilly or hummocky situation in which the vegetation was protected from supersaturation and from the high level and overflow of lakes. The relief is as follows:



The deeper drainage channel (2 to 4 feet) drain water from hummocks. This climate support best vegetation and greatest variety of bird life. The flat climate tundra did not support