

Lawrence, Kansas  
 Entered Sept, 29, 1955

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY  
 BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

September 23, 1955

Mr. James W. Bee  
 Museum of Natural History  
 University of Kansas  
 Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Jim:


I have been meaning to write to you to thank you for your very good letter of May 16th regarding the occurrence of microtines near Umiat. One man on my team (Dick Hansen) spent about six weeks there, except for brief trips to Kotzebue and the Saviovik River.

We obtained five species of microtines at Umiat, also a shrew. The funny part of it was that Hansen had such a blasted time trying to find Lemmus, whereas Dicrostonyx was found on the river flat as well as on the higher ground far from the valley! This, I take it, is the reverse of your experience. Finally, some time in mid-July, not having gotten a Lemmus in any of our standard sampling lines or in any spot-trapping, he looked the situation over and picked out what he considered the least likely situations, desparation-sites, the most odd-ball habitats, or what have you! And he got two the first nite!! In the remainder of the summer, I believe one showed up in a standard line, but otherwise, none. In other words, Lemmus was really scarce and Dicrostonyx definitely much more common. Otherwise, he found M. oeconomus and Clethrionomys in fair numbers, and also got a few M. miurus.

We got around a fair bit this summer, and collected microtines also at Wainwright, Meade River, Half-moon Three Ranch, and Barrow, in addition to the localities mentioned above. Things are definitely in an upswing phase, and microtines may hit a peak in 1956, and certainly by 1957. They were most numerous at Meade River and Wainwright.

Hope your work on the arctic book is progressing. We all look forward to seeing it.

Best regards,

  
 Frank A. Pitelka

FAP:rm

cc--E. Raymond Hall