

visibly effects the climbers and they look terribly. They had a successful climb and we dog sledged but to Wonder Lake headquarters which is about 95 miles. There is a road going along there but in certain places the road takes a scenic route along the mountain ^{cliff} and the road is drifted over, so in the winter we do not necessarily take the road, it's much easier to take the natural highways of river courses.

In the winter the bears are lethargic and sleep alot. I didn't see many caribou ⁱⁿ during the winter as they were about 185 miles NW of where I was last winter. About 3000 wintered at Lake Chikina. There is only an average of 12-20⁴ inches of snow at certain elevations. In 1971 they had an unusually high snowfall, 5 feet, a right-away in the spring the biologists ran a game count and it was ^{really} quite obvious that a whole bunch of moose yearlings had died off during the hard winter and a lot of young sheep, not so many, died and all the ^{high mortality} was related to a ^{heavy} snow fall. Cause that is what they would have to do is to dig down and get the snow off. I think it was pretty hard on the wolves too. When it's hard on the other animals they have to travel through the deep snow too and it's hard on them I'm sure. The higher the snow the more difficult for the wolves to catch the animals, or to get to them. The sheep do go across the ^{wide} valley from the summer ranges, ^{on the outer ranges} to the winter ranges on the inner range of higher mountains like the McKinleys which are just a gigantic ^{granite} ice berg. I believe they have a tendency to stay high on the mountains of the Alaskan range where the wind keeps the ridges bare where they seem to be more comfortable. I have seen sheep walking along what was obviously the rocky river bed in the valley, where they seemed to be more comfortable than away from the river bed and what appeared to be more like their normal ground surface on the mountain ridges. Even though they are more highly exposed on the river ^{bars} ~~gravel~~ they prefer these areas to the ^{higher} vegetation. Most reports of wolf kill are on these gravel beds where the sheep were caught while crossing the valleys. It would make a big difference how they would react to you when you would approach them for photographing or just observing them. The easiest way was to ^{not} hide yourself at all but very boldly walk right up to them until they start to get pretty jittery