

latter stages of the Wisconsin ice age. It also seems likely that, as the ice melted, superglacial till was extensive. This could have formed the substrate for extensive superglacial vegetation.

Ice melting is rapidly destroying this ecosystem (Fig. 3), as it was in those reported by Tarr and Martin<sup>6</sup>. Ecosystems on Wisconsin-age glaciers would also have been destroyed. However, organic matter, nitrogen, and other plant nutrients built up in the superglacial ecosystem could make significant contributions to young post-glacial ecosystems. For instance, ecosystems of this age below the Mendenhall Glacier have accumulated about 2,000 pounds per acre of nitrogen in and on the soil, not including that in the live vegetation<sup>3</sup>.

Superglacial vegetation could have been important in hastening extension of plant ranges after deglaciation. Seed sources for much newly deglaciated land may have existed on nearby ice. Vegetated, stagnant ice bridges could have been important in the spread of vegetation and animals between islands and between the mainland and islands.

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## A Northern North American Record of the Starling

The spread and establishment of the starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in many parts of

North America since its introduction into New York City in 1890 is well known. It was not until recently, however, that evidence for its northward spread on this continent was obtained; the first record of this species from the Northwest Territories, near Fort Smith, was reported by Fuller<sup>1</sup>. Since that time starlings have repeatedly been seen in the Fort Smith and Yellowknife areas<sup>2</sup> and on 16 June 1964 Kuyt<sup>2</sup> found a nest at Lookout Point, about 225 miles northwest of Fort Reliance, Northwest Territories. Starlings were first reported in Alaska in 1960<sup>3</sup> and since that time several have been seen in interior Alaska.<sup>4, 5</sup>

On 27 June 1968 I observed a starling feeding at the edge of a sewer lagoon, about one-half mile north of Inuvik, Northwest Territories (68°21'N., 133°44'W.). This bird was not seen again despite several subsequent trips in the vicinity of where the original observation was made. This appears to be the most northerly record of the starling in North America, being about 120 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

This observation was made while I was employed on contract with the Canadian Wildlife Service.

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## Coordination of Arctic Research in the U.S.A.

To improve the coordination of basic, unclassified research conducted in the Arctic under the auspices of U.S. Government agencies, an Interagency Arctic Research Coordinating Committee was established in 1968. The committee members represent twelve Government agencies: the Department