HANNA, G. DALLAS, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Calif.: Study of inshore bottom materials; paleontology of the Gubik formation.

HURD, PAUL D., JR., Dept. of Entomology and Parasitology, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.: Classification and analysis of soil invertebrates collections from Point Barrow, Alaska.

HUSSEY, KEITH M., Dept. of Geology, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa: Geologic-geomorphic relationships near Point Barrow.

PITELKA, FRANK A., Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.: Comparative ecology of lemmings and other microtines.

SHANKS, ROYAL E., Dept. of Botany, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.: Investigations of the tundra vegetation.

TEDROW, J. C. F., Soils Dept., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.: A pedologic study of the soil-forming processes of the arctic coastal plain of Alaska.

TELEKI, GEZA, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.: A methodological study of aerial photography in relation to sea-ice forecast in the Beaufort Sea area.

THORNTHWAITE, C. W., Laboratory of Climatology, Elmer, N.J.: Study of arctic climatology.

SABLE, EDWARD G., U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.: Geologic mapping and studies of igneous and sedimentary bedrock in the Mt. Michelson area.

IRVING, LAWRENCE, Arctic Health Research Center, Anchorage, Alaska: Biological reconnaissance at the arctic border between Canada and Alaska.

CAMPBELL, JOHN M., Dept. of Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.: Archaeological investigations of pre-Eskimo habitation sites at Anaktuvuk Pass.

MAHER, WILLIAM J., Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.: Study of population ecology of the pomarine jaeger.

MILLER, ROBERT C., California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Calif.: Study of the effect of radar beams on flying birds.

REVELLE, ROGER, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, La Jolla, Calif.: Continuation of tide-gauge and sea-valley studies.

NORTHERN NEWS

The forgotten cairn

There is still a chance, although a slender one, of discovering a despatch from Sir John Franklin, leader of the lost arctic expedition of 1845-48. For oddly enough, although various searchers scoured Montreal Island in the estuary of Back River, none of them realized that on lordly Cape Britannia, 25 miles to the northeast stood a great cairn, which should always have been one of the "letter boxes" of the region.

Standing 14 feet high and composed of ponderous stones, it was erected by Dease and Simpson in August 1839 on one of the northern heights of the long headland. In it they placed a sealed bottle containing a report of their proceedings, as described on pages 373-4 of Thomas Simpson's "Narrative of discoveries on the north coast of America. . . .", a copy of which is known to have been among the books taken by Sir John Franklin on his expedition.

He had also Captain George Back's "Narrative of the arctic land expedition

to the mouth of the Great Fish River", on page 14 of which Back recorded having been directed to build a "conspicuous landmark" at the mouth of the river, and in it deposit a letter for Captain John Ross (then missing in the Arctic) giving notice of the arrangements being made for his relief; instructions not complied with by Back, as he got news of Ross's safety before descending the river.

But the intention was manifest; a large cairn to act as a place of call for letters. So, knowing how Dease and Simpson had made good the deficiency, Sir John would have reasoned that that was the place where anyone coming down river should look for a letter from him, and have had a report of his proceedings deposited there, as well as in Ross's cairn at the Magnetic Pole.

Unfortunately, Sir John Barrow's book "Voyages of discovery and research within the arctic regions from 1818 to the present day" made Dease and Simpson pass Cape Britannia without stopping, consequently all the searchers for news of Franklin who relied solely on it for information about past events never knew of the existence of the cairn and passed it by: Anderson and Stewart (1855), and Captain M'Clintock (1859) to the westward; Captain Hall (1869) to the northward; and Schwatka and Gilder (1879) to the south and westward.

If properly sealed up (as was Dease and Simpson's letter) written records endure long; so if the cairn is still in existence, not one but two wonderful "finds" may have been awaiting discovery on Cape Britannia for many a decade. There is a recent rumour that Eskimo discovered and destroyed the cairn some years ago, but Rasmussen in 1932 did not hear anything of such a discovery (and he spoke Eskimo fluently), whereas he was told about the bones of the white men on Adelaide Peninsula.

So who knows but that the cairn may still stand? As there may be geologists, naturalists, photographers and others intending to visit the Cape Britannia region in the course of a summer's work, perhaps the curiosity of some of them may be sufficiently aroused to turn their steps toward Cape Britannia *and look in the obvious place* for a letter from Sir John Franklin. Even if disappointed in this, Dease and Simpson's "taking possession" document would be a wonderful consolation price.

NOEL WRIGHT

Waterfowl Research Project

The Waterfowl Research Project of the Arctic Institute of North America is designed to gather and publish information on the various factors affecting the migratory waterfowl on the North American continent. Various policies and programs of provincial, state, dominion, and federal agencies in Canada, the United States, and Mexico are being studied and a comprehensive survey is now being prepared.

One of the most difficult portions of the study is the gathering of reliable data on the present day uses of migratory birds, particularly waterfowl, by the native Indians and Eskimo of the Arctic and sub-Arctic. It is known that in some areas, particularly around Hudson Bay, rather large numbers of geese are taken during spring and fall migration. These are used by the natives for both food and clothing. Elsewhere in the Arctic ducks are apparently used to a minor extent for these purposes and the birds taken are mostly sea ducks, such as scoters, eiders and old-squaws. These are indigenous to the North and are of little interest to hunters in southern Canada and the United States. This is not generally known and publication of such facts as can be determined would be of considerable interest and importance to the millions of Canadian and United States citizens who take waterfowl for sport during open hunting seasons.

Mr. Albert Day, Director of the Waterfowl Research Project, is anxious to obtain as many data as possible on this subject. Those who have made observations in northern native communities and

can supply information on the subject will assist this research project by advising Mr. Day of their findings. Black and white photographs of hunting camps, hunting methods, or related activities will also be helpful and appreciated. Data should be sent to the Washington office of the Arctic Institute of North America.

Botanical exploration along the Fort George River, Sakami Lake, and Eastmain River in 1956

On July 28, 1956 Father A. Dutilly and I left the post at Fort George with two Indian guides to travel up the Fort George River. We took an outboard motor along, knowing that it would be useful during one half of the trip. Ascending the Fort George River, one big rapid necessitated a short portage, otherwise the first 50 miles were easily covered. The next 40 miles of the river are usually avoided by the Indians, who prefer to follow a roundabout route either to the north or to the south of the stream. We chose the southern route that leads first down to Lake Duncan and calls for walking over a series of long portages; trudging through swamps, savannas, and pine forests; crossing six small lakes; and rowing along a barely navigable, narrow river. The first leg of the detour to the south of Fort George River, a distance of about 16 miles in a straight line, required eight days of hard labour. Then, heading east, it took another five days before we finally reached Lake Sakami after crossing a series of lakes that lie in a direction parallel to the Fort George River. The crossing of Lake Sakami, a lake over 40 miles long, as well as that of Lake Boyd immediately to the south of it, is rather easy in fair weather. However, we encountered raging winds and spent five more days before we came in sight of the Opinaca River, the main northern tributary of the Eastmain River. The final leg of our expedition required seven more days. All along the course of the Opinaca River are many heavy rapids that mean long portages, some of which have a length of 1 to 3 miles. Thus it was August 24 by the time we arrived at Eastmain Post.

As we had surmised before we left, this expedition led through a region that is dull and very poor from a botanical point of view. What makes the situation worse is that forest fires have devastated more than one-half of this territory. However, this trip from north to south across the drainage basin east of James Bay enabled us to enlarge our knowledge of the northern range of several plants that we had seen along the Rupert River in 1943 and that we had not found again in the course of further expeditions along the Roggan, Wiachuan and Larch rivers in 1945 and 1950. Among these plants may be mentioned: *Kalmia angustifolia*, *Aralia nudicaulis*, *A. hispida*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, *Scutellaria galericulata*, *S. lateriflora*, *Spiraea latifolia*, *Gentiana linearis*, *Betula pumila* var. *glandulifera*.

The discovery of the following plants was quite unexpected: *Osmunda claytoniana*, *Nuphar microphyllum*, *Monotropa hypopithys*, and *Betula michauxii*.

Once again we were able to verify the wide range of some species, whose distribution was very poorly known until a few years ago, such as: *Oryzopsis pungens*, *O. canadensis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Lycopodium sabinaefolium*, *Epigaea repens* var. *glabrifolia*, and scores of others.

Among the different forest types encountered we identified the following:

Pinus-Kalmia-Vaccinium: *Pinus banksiana*, *Kalmia angustifolia*, and *Vaccinium angustifolium*, with *Lycopodium sabinaefolium*, *Salix humilis*, and *Epigaea repens* var. *glabrifolia*.

Picea-Ledum-Sphagnum: *Picea mariana*, *Ledum groenlandicum*, and *Sphagnum* spp.

Picea-Cladonia: *Picea mariana*, and *Cladonia* spp. (mostly *C. sylvestris*).

This exploration completes our research on the eastern watershed of James Bay, and we hope to make a contribution to the literature on the flora of this region in the near future.

FATHER ERNEST LEPAGE

Biological work at the George River, northern Quebec

During the summer of 1956 the author, accompanied by Mr. B. Bonlander, spent a very profitable ten weeks collecting information on the population of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) inhabiting the George River, northern Quebec. Mr. Bonlander, besides assisting with this work, carried out botanical investigations in the region around Helens Falls, the party's headquarters. These investigations consisted of making collections of plants from various habitats and also carrying out detailed studies of the microclimate of the heath at various levels above the river.

About 450 salmon were captured and examined between July 15 and September 10; the total was made up of approximately equal numbers of parr, smolts, and mature fish. The lengths and weights of all specimen were recorded, stomach contents were examined, condition of the gonads was noted, and scale samples were collected for age determinations. The main smolt migration took place in July and early August; since the season of 1956 was exceptionally late the migration would probably be a month earlier in a more normal year. The main run of adult salmon entered the river around August 15, but four weeks earlier would again be a more usual date in most years.

Physiological work in the field included measurements of the oxygen consumption of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), salmon parr, and salmon smolts. It is hoped that these data will provide information on the respiratory adaptions, if any, of these fish living in northern waters.

Work on other species of fish included the capture and examination of 60 specimens of brook trout, 50 specimens each of *Prosopium cylindraceum* and *Coregonus culpeaformis*, and of a number of specimens of *Cristivomer* (=*Salvelinus*) *namaycush* and *Catostomus catostomus*. In all 12 species of fish were collected in the region. A detailed account of the results of the investigation, which was supported by a Banting Fund grant received through the Arctic Institute of North America, will be published later.

G. POWER

Openings for research in the Antarctic

The National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council of the United States of America announces that opportunities exist in the Antarctic program planned by the U.S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year 1957-58, for scientists, engineers, and technicians at the bachelors, masters, and doctorate levels of training and experience in physics, geophysics, electronics, or closely allied areas. The IGY is an unprecedented study of the physics of the earth in which more than fifty nations are collaborating. The U.S. antarctic program emphasizes the following fields: Aurora and Airglow, Cosmic Rays, Glaciology, Gravity, Ionospheric Physics, Meteorology, and Seismology. Most of the current openings exist in the fields of meteorology and glaciology, although the other fields still require a limited number of specialists.

Research stations have been established at Little America on Marie Byrd Land (Byrd Station), at the South Geographic Pole (Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station), on the Knox Coast (Wilkes Station), and along the Weddell Sea (Ellsworth Station).

The first group of scientists and technicians are now on station and geophysical observations and studies are at present under way. The program of observations will continue until April 1959. A second group will leave the United States about November 1, 1957. Prior to departure, approximately two months of advanced training will be provided in problems of research, instrumentation, and operation in polar regions.

Interested candidates are invited to address enquiries to the following Antarctic Project Leaders:

Aurora and Airglow

Mr. Norman J. Oliver, A. F. Cambridge Research Center, Laurence G. Hanscom Field, Bedford, Massachusetts.

Glaciology, Gravity, and Seismology
Miss Diana Fisher, Glaciological Headquarters Office, USNC-IGY, Room 716, 1145 19th St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.
Ionospheric Physics
Mr. Harry G. Sellery, Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado.
Meteorology
Mr. Ervin A. Volbrecht, U.S. Weather Bureau, 24th and M Streets, N.W., Washington 25, D.C.

ELECTION OF FELLOWS

At the Annual Meeting of the Arctic Institute held in Montreal on November 17, 1956 the following were elected Fellows of the Institute:

Dr. A. W. F. Banfield, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ont.
Mrs. Lydia O. Fohn-Hansen, University of Alaska, College, Alaska.
Dr. Elmer Harp, Jr., Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.
Dr. J. Ross Mackay, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.
Dr. R. S. MacNeish, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Ont.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN THE CANADIAN NORTH

The Canadian Board on Geographical Names has adopted the following names and name changes for official use in the Northwest Territories and Yukon Territory. For convenience of reference the names are listed according to the maps on which they appear. The latitudes and longitudes given are approximate only.

Eskimo Point, 55 SW.
(Adopted September 1, 1955)

Turquetil Lake	61°55′N.	95°50′W.

O'Connor Lake, 75 E/5
(Adopted October 13, 1955)

Mansoz Lake	54°17′N.	111°41′W.
Dempsey Lake	54°25′	111°47′

(Adopted January 19, 1956)

LaPerriere Lake	61°26′	111°48′

Marian River, 85 N.
(Adopted December 1, 1955)

Strutt Lake	63°20′N.	116°14′W.
Labrish Lake	63°40′	116°17′
Ketcheson Lake	63°53′	116°50′
Snively Lake	63°49′	116°18′