

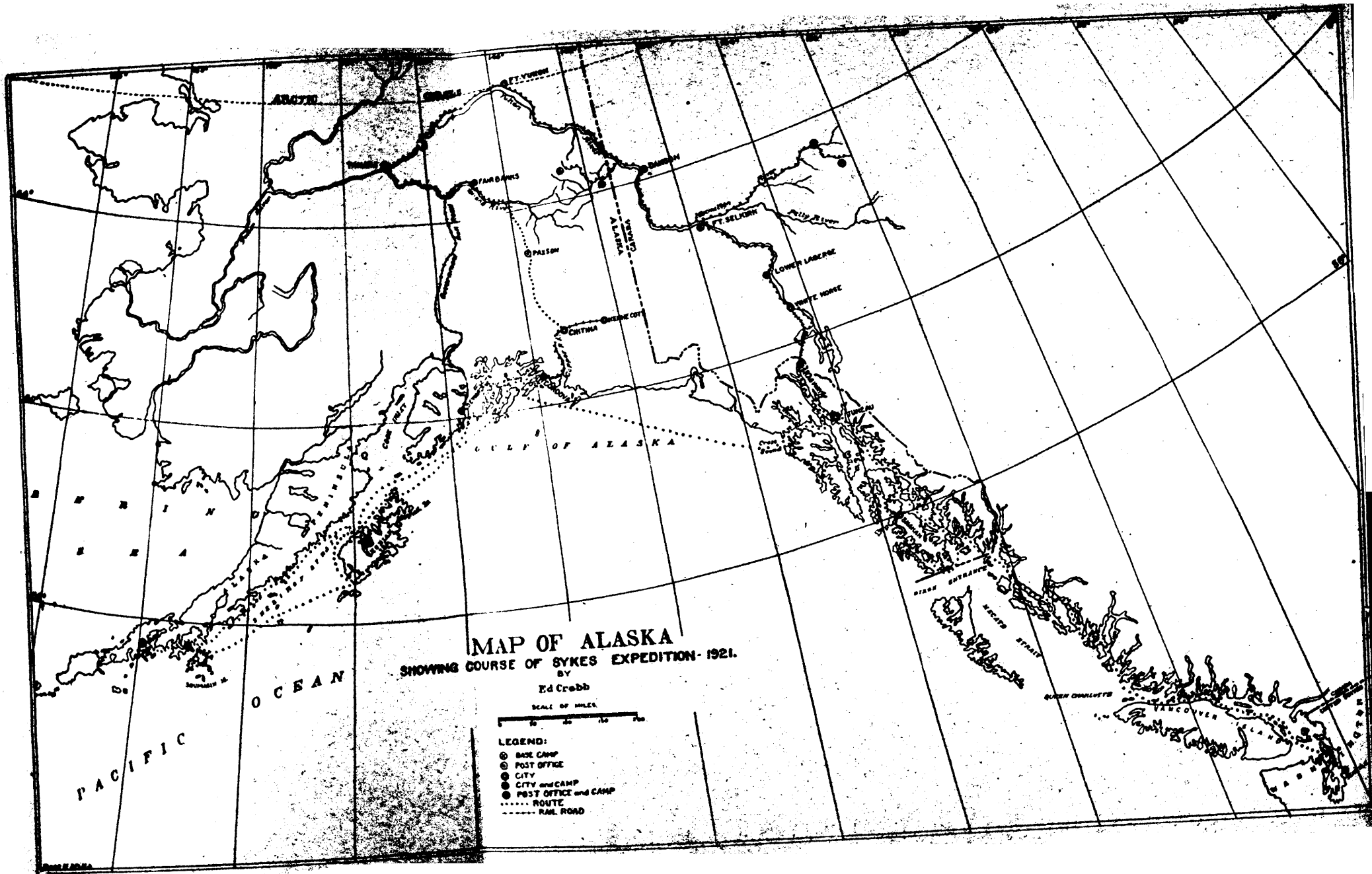
**XXVII. THE SYKES ALASKAN EXPEDITION OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA OF 1921.**

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From the Zoological Laboratory of the University of Oklahoma.  
Contribution No. 22, Second Series.

Mr. C. E. Sykes, a well known big-game hunter, oil man and parton of science, of Ardmore, Oklahoma, organized a six month's expedition into Alaska and the Yukon Territory of Canada, primarily to collect family groups of large mammals for the Museum of the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Sykes, accompanied by the writer, left Norman enroute to Alaska, April 18, 1921.

The route taken by the expedition from Seattle to the return to the United States was as follows: C. E. Sykes and the writer, accompanied by R. H. Rockwell, taxidermist for the Brooklyn Museum, and Charles Hoffmeister, a sportsman from Imperial, Nebraska, sailed from Seattle April 23 and arrived at Cordova, April 30, where they were joined by Dr. W. H. Chase. The party of five embarked on May 1 in a 65-foot gas boat, which had been



chartered for the purpose; arrived at Uyak Bay, on Kodiak Island, May 5 and stayed at this place two days on account of stormy seas. The party arrived at Unga, May 8, and after taking guides and packers on board left for Pirate Cove where they passed the night. The next morning, at Broad Cape, Mr. Sykes killed the mother and three cubs of the Museum's group of five Kodiak brown bears. (The remaining bear, the male, was taken at Pavloff Bay, June 2.) The party reached Pavloff Bay that night, and established a base camp at the foot of Mount Pavloff the next morning. They left Pavloff Bay June the sixth; having secured in all 17 kodiak brown bears, of which five are the property of the University's Museum and seven belong to the Brooklyn Museum, and arrived at Cordova, June 12.

At Cordova the party reorganized, the Oklahoma members continuing on into the interior of Alaska and into Canada. We left Cordova June 22 for Fairbanks, via the Copper River Railroad to Chitina, thence overland 319 miles to Fairbanks, arriving June 28; and departed July 1 for Dawson via the Tanana and Yukon rivers. We spent the fourth and fifth within the Arctic Circle, and arrived at Dawson the eighth of July, where we left our heavy baggage, returning to Fortymile Town the next day. The following morning, July 10, we left for Jack Wade, going up the Forty-mile River to Steel Creek, thence overland, making the trip of about 54 miles in about 29 hours of actual travel. Specimens were collected at Jack Wade and on the North Fork of the Forty-mile River during the next three weeks. On the return trip to Dawson five days were spent collecting at Fortymile Town. From this place we went to Dawson and on up the Yukon to Fort Selkirk where collecting was again resumed.

The party, now augmented by two hunters from Oklahoma, left Fort Selkirk, August 15, in a small gas boat for the big game country. The Pelcy and Macmillan Rivers were ascended some 435 miles, the trip upstream occupying six days. The party collected big game specimens in this country while several smaller specimens were taken during the journey up and down the two rivers. The party arrived at Whitehorse the night of September 28. The next morning Mr. Sykes and his friends left for Skaguay and embarked for Seattle. The writer and Mrs. Crabb were unable to leave the country until the next boat, October 12, on account of preparing and shipping the specimens; consequently we did not arrive in Norman until October 25. This trip lasted six months and eight days and during this time the party traveled a total of not less than 8,000 miles and secured the following specimens:

## Alaskan Birds

A. O. U.	No.
12. Tufted Puffin, <i>Lunda cirrhata</i> (Pallas).....	2
Collected on Afognak Island; fairly common.	
17. Paroquet Auklet, <i>Phaleris psittacula</i> (Pallas).....	1
Pavloff Bay; only one seen, very rare, reported.	
29. Pigeon Guillemot, <i>Cepphus columba</i> (Pallas).....	2
Afognak Island; common.	
44. Glaucous-winged Gull, <i>Laurus glaucescens</i> (Numann).....	3
Pavlof Bay; very common.	
*55. Short-billed Gull, <i>Laurus brachyrhynchus</i> (Richardson)....	1
Probably uncommon; Pavlof Bay.	
56. Mew Gull, <i>Laurus canus</i> (Linnaeus) .....	1
Pavlof Bay; fairly common.	
71. Arctic term, <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (Brunnich) .....	2
Pavlof Bay; common.	
155. Harlequin Duck, <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i> (Linn.) .....	1
Pavlof Bay; fairly common, surface duck; (imm. male.)	
180. Whistling W. Swan, <i>Olor columbianus</i> (Ord.) .....	1
Pavlof Bay; saw only 8 during northern trip--6 months.	
235a. Aleutian Sandpiper, <i>Arquatella maritima couesii</i> (Ridg.)..	2
Pavlof Bay, common in flocks of half dozen to 1,000.	
242. Least Sandpiper, <i>Pisoba minutilla</i> (Vieillot).....	2
Pavlof Bay; not common; seen only in pairs.	
274. Semipalmated Plover, <i>Aegialitis semipalmata</i> (Bonaparte)..	1
Pavlof Bay; only fairly common.	
287. Black Oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus bathman</i> 1 (Audubon)....	4
Afognak Island; fairly common.	
302d. Townsend's Ptarmigan, <i>Lagopus rupestris townsendi</i> (Elliott)	1
Pavlof Bay, fairly common.	
347a. Rough-legged Hawk, <i>Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis</i>	1
(Gmelin) .....	
King Cove; a melanistic female.	
352a. Northern Bald Eagle, <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus</i>	1
(C. H. Townsend) .....	
*Property of Brooklyn Museum, but in our possession.	
478. Steller's Jay, <i>Cyanocitta stelleri stelleri</i> (Gmelin) .....	3
Cordova, fairly common.	
489. Northwest Crow, <i>Corvus caurinus</i> (Baird) .....	1
Uyak Bay, Kodiak Island; common. None at Pavlof Bay.	
528. Redpoll, <i>Acanthis linaria linaria</i> (Linnaeus) .....	1
Jake Wade, common.	
536a. Alaska Longspur, <i>Calarius lapponicus alascanus</i> (Ridg.) .....	2
Pavlof Bay; common; nesting.	
585f. Kodiak Fox Sparrow, <i>Passerella iliaca fuliginosa</i> (Ridg.)..	1
Uyak Bay, Kodiak Island; fairly common.	
685a. Pileolated Warbler, <i>Wilsonia pusilla pileolato</i> (Pallas)....	1
Jake Wade.	
697. Pipit, <i>Anthus rubescens</i> (Tunstall) .....	1
Pavlof Bay; first noted about May 25; not common.	

741. Chestnut-backed Chickadee, *Penthestes rufescens rufescens* (J. K. Townsend) ..... 1  
Skaquay; fairly common in first of October.
763. Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius* (Gmelin) ..... 1  
Cordova, fairly common.
- 763a. Northern or Pale Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius meruloides* (Swainson) ..... 1  
Jack Wade.

#### Birds Collected in Yukon Territory, Canada.

11. Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata* (Pontoppidan)..... 2  
Macmillan river; saw only 5 during entire summer.
139. Green-wing Teal, *Nettion carolinensis* (Gmelin) ..... 2  
Macmillan River; common; most common teal.
163. American Scooter, *Oidemia americana* (Swainson)..... 1  
Mouth of Fortymile River; only one seen; a female.
230. Wilson Snipe, *Gallinago delicata* (Ord.) ..... 1  
A lake near mouth of Fortymile; locally common.
255. Yellow-legs, *Totanus flavipes* (Gmelin) .....  
Lake near mouth of Fortymile; 3 pairs seen all summer.
298. (or 298b) Hudsonian (or Alaska) Spruce Partridge,  
*Canachites canadensis canadensis* (Linnaeus).....  
Yukon river bottom near mouth of Fortymile; fairly common;  
(2 coll. at Jack Wade, Alaska).
2005. Gray Ruffed Grouse, *Bonassa umbellus umbelloides*  
(Douglas) ..... 1

#### Mammals Collected in Alaska

No.

1. Ermine, Pavlof Bay, male in summer pelage.
1. Varying Hare, Pavlof Bay, male, transitional winter coat
1. Gray Marmot, Fortymile River bank; female.
1. Red-backed Mouse (Sp.), Jack Wade.
1. Pine Squirrel (Sp.), Skagway.
5. Kodiak Brown Bears, male, mother and 3 cubs.
2. Moose, a mother and her 14-month-old calf.

#### Mammals Collected in Yukon Territory, Canada

2. Gray Marmots, South Fork Macmillan Mountains.
2. Varying Hares, 1 immature, 1 transitional; summer pelage.
1. Porcupine, (Canada); male.
1. California Ground Squirrel, male.
6. Pine Squirrels, (Sp.); (2 species?).
3. Grizzly Bears, mother and 2 cubs.
2. Moose, ad. males, Macmillan Country, on South Fork
2. Moose, ad. females, Macmillan Country, on South Fork
2. Moose, calves, females, Macmillan Country, on South Fork.
4. Caribou, (Woodland), Adult males, Macmillan Country.
2. Caribou, (Woodland), Adult females, Macmillan Country.
2. Caribou, (Woodland), Calves, male and female, Macmillan Country.
2. Mountain Sheep, lambs, *O. stonci*, Macmillan Country.
2. Mountain Sheep, ewes, *O. stonci*, Macmillan Country.
2. Mountain Sheep, rams, *O. stonci*, Macmillan Country.

**Unusual Histological Material**

- Section of contents of infraorbital foramen of cow caribou.  
(Fixed with Bouin.)  
Growing tip of antler of caribou cow (fixed with Bouin).  
Cushion of Kodiak Bear's paw, (in formaldehyde solution)  
Tongue of male ermine, (in formaldehyde solution).  
Section of skin and blubber of adult male porpoise, (in formaldehyde solution).

**Cytological Material (pieces of testes in Bouin)**

- Caribou Calf, (Woodland), No. I-C, Aug. 24, 1921.  
Caribou Spike, (Barrenground), Pavlof Bay, May 22, 1921.  
Kodiak Brown Bear, Pavlof Bay, May 31.  
Kodiak Brown Bear, Pavlof Bay, June 2.  
Kodiak Brown Bear, No. 6, Pavlof Bay, June 2.  
Varying Hare, Pavlof Bay, May 19.  
Townsend's Ptarmigan, Pavlof Bay, May 19.  
Whistler, or Gray Marmot, Yukon Territory, Sept. 8.  
Black Bear, weight 120 lbs., Yukon Territory, Aug. 20.  
Mountain Sheep, imature, Yukon Territory, Aug.  
Moose, which is being studied by a graduate student of the department of zoology, Sept. 7.

**Alaskan Specimens of Mollusca**

- No.  
30 Limpets, probably representing three varieties; common.  
5. *Mytilus edulis*, Cordova; very common.  
12. Oyster Drills (*Urosalpinx*), Cordova; very common.  
4. Razor-backed clams, edible, near Cordova, locally common.  
1. Horse Clam (edible, 6 in. long); Shackran; apparently local.  
5. Hard-shelled Sand Clams; Shackran; common.  
5. Rock Snails or Periwinkles, probably *Littorina littorea* (Lin.); very common; Cordova.  
12. Brackish water bivalves (Sp?); Ruby's Lagoon, at Pavlof Bay; common.  
6. Marine bivalves (Sp?).

**Skeletal Specimens**

1. Whistling Swan, trunk of, male, Pavlof Bay.  
1. Tufted Puffin, trunk of, female, Afognak Island.  
1. Porpoise, entire, adult male, Cordova.  
3. Grizzly skulls, adult, Whitehorse, Canada.  
1. Black Bear, skull, 120-lb. male, Macmillan River, Canada.  
1. Beaver Skull, adult male, found dead on Fortymile banks.

**Plaster Casts and Moulds**

- No.  
1. Nose and mouth of female caribou.  
1. Mountain Sheep lamb, female, anterior part of head including orbital regions.  
1. Mountain Sheep, lamb, male, side of nose and mouth.  
1. Moose, calf, female, side of head, showing part of head from ear to nose, seriously damaged in transit.

1. Track of cow caribou, right front foot.
1. Track of mountain sheep ewe, right front foot.

#### Miscellaneous Alcoholic Specimens from Alaska

Chiton, probably *Mapalia mucosa* (Gld.), Afognak Island; common.

Sculpin, Seward, Alaska.

Black Clam, *Mytilus edulis* one with valve removed, other entire, but encrusted with acorn barnacles; both in a bottle for exhibition.

Nemertian, or beak thrower, Pavlof Bay, only one found.

Nereis, Pavlof Bay. Species unidentified, fairly common.

Eels (Sp?); Pavlof Bay.

Anemonae. (Sp-); Pavlof Bay.

Common Star.

Red Star. (Unidentified).

Hermit crabs. (Unidentified).

Ox Warble, larva, from back of caribou.

Acorn Barnacles.

Parasitic nematodes from porpoise.

#### Miscellaneous

- No.
1. Pair of muckluks, (Eskimo moccasins).
  264. Folders, about 1500 specimens, of flowering plants. Several unidentified insects, including bumble bees, ants, mosquitos, beetles, grasshopper and other familiar forms.
  327. Kodak negatives.

#### This Makes a Total of

70. Bird skins.
47. Mammal skins to be mounted whole; 30 of which are big-game specimens, including 8 moose, 8 caribou, 6 mountain sheep and 8 bears.
5. Kinds of unusual histological material.
11. Vials of cytological material.
81. Molluscan shells.
8. Skeletal specimens.
6. Plaster casts which pertain to big-game.
21. Alcoholics or specimens preserved entire.
327. Kodak negatives.
1. Pair of Eskimo muckluks.
264. Folders of flowering plants.

Two-thirds of the big-game specimens have already been sent to a taxidermic firm in Colorado to be mounted, while the other third is being tanned and prepared for mounting.