DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF PEARY CARIBOU (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*) ON LOUGHEED ISLAND, JULY 2016

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LOUGHEED ISLAND (ᖃᐲ ᖁᒥ), ᓴᓪᐃ 2016

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Summary

We flew a survey of Lougheed Island on July 28, 2016, as reconnaissance to find caribou groups for collection of fecal pellets. We encountered enough caribou groups to allow us to calculate a population estimate for the island, which had been last surveyed in 2007. We observed 61 caribou, 26 of which were on transect, during the flight. The estimate of 140±SE33 Peary caribou indicates a decline from the 2007 survey, which estimated 205-672 caribou on the island (95% CI, Jenkins et al. 2011). We did not see any muskoxen on Lougheed Island, but we did see 2 wolves last summer and wolf tracks this summer. Lougheed Island too remote to be regularly accessed for harvesting.

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Contents

List of Figures v
List of Tables v
Introduction 6
ᓇᓗᓇᐃᔨᐃᓂᖅ 6
Study Area 7
Methods 7
Aerial Survey 7
Analysis 7
Results 9
ᖁᐅᓴᔨᐅᔾᑦ 9
Discussion 11
ᐅᖁᖁᑎᒋᓐᓂᖅ 13
Management Recommendations 14
ᐊᐃᐅᓪᓗᓂᔪᑦ ᐃᓱᒪᓕᐅᑕᐅᔾᑦ 14
Acknowledgements 14
Literature Cited 15
Appendix 1. Alternate population calculations. 16
Jolly Method II Calculations 16

List of Figures

Figure 1. Observations of Peary caribou on Lougheed Island, July 2016, including observations on and off transect, and on ferry flights. ᑎᑎᖅᑐᑦᓱᖅᓯᒪᔪᖅ 1. ᑕᑯᐸᐅᔪᓕ ᐱᐅᓗ ᑐᐢᑐᐃᓪᓕ Lougheed ᖃᑭᖅᑕᖏᓚᓂ, ᔫᓪᐃ 2016-ᒥ, ᐱᖅᓯᐅᑎᑦᓯᐊᑎᒃ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᑕᐅᔪᓕ ᑲᓯᖅᕆᒻᒥ ᓯᓪᒃᑲᓂᓗ. ᐊᐃᒪᓗ ᐅᒥᐊᖅᔦᐊᒪᓗᑲᑦᑯᖅᑐᓂ. 10
Figure 2. Population estimates for Peary caribou on Lougheed Island. Grey bars indicate estimates including calves (Tener 1963, Miller et al. 1977, this report), black bars are minimum counts (Miller et al. 1977, Miller 1987, this report for 2015), and white bars are population estimates of 1+-year-old caribou (Gunn and Dragon 2002, Jenkins et al. 2011). 12
Figure 3. Locations of Peary caribou groups seen on a July 23, 2015 Twin Otter flight over Lougheed Island. 13
ᑎᑎᖅᑐᑦᓱᖅᓯᒪᔪᖅ 2. ᐊᒥᓱᓂᕐᓂᓂᖅ ᓇᓕᐅᑦᓵᓂᖅ ᐱᐅᓗ ᑐᑦᑐᓂᓂᑦ Lougheed ᖃᑭᖅᑕᖏᓚᓂ. ᐃᓯᖅᑐᑦ ᐃᑲᖏᒪᔪᑦ ᓇᓕᐅᑦᓵᖅᑕᐅᔪᓕ ᐱᖅᓯᐅᑎᑦᓯᐊᑎᒃ ᓄᖅᕿᐃᑦ (Tener 1963, Miller et al. 1977, ᐅᑯᐊ ᐅᓂᒃᑲᑦ), ᖃᑭᓂᖅᑐᑦ ᐃᑲᖏᒪᔪᑦ ᐊᑦᓯᓂᖅᐸᑦ ᓴᓵᐃᓂᐅᔪᓕ (Miller et al. 1977, Miller 1987, ᐅᑯᐊ ᐅᓂᒃᑲᑦ 2015−ᒧᑦ), ᖃᑯᖅᑕᐃᓪᓗ ᐃᑲᖏᒪᔪᑦ ᐊᒥᓱᓂᕐᓂᓂᒃ ᓇᓕᐅᑦᓵᖅᑐᑦ 1+-ᐊᖅᑦᔪᓚᓂᓂᒃ ᑐᒃᑐᓂᒃ. (Gunn and Dragon 2002, Jenkins et al. 2011). 14

List of Tables

Table 1. Transects on Lougheed Island for a fixed-wing survey, July 28, 2016. 7
Table 2. Peary caribou population calculations Lougheed Island with variance calculated by nearest neighbor methods and by deviations from the sample mean. 11
ᑎᑎᖅᑐᑦᓱᖅᓯᒪᔪᖅ 2. ᐱᐅᓗ ᑐᒃᑐᐃᓪᓕ ᐊᒥᓱᓂᕐᓂᓂᒃ ᓴᓵᐃᓂᐅᔪᓕ Lougheed ᖃᑭᖅᑕᖏᓚᓂ ᐊᐳᔨᑦᓵᖅᓂᓂᐅᔪᓕ ᓴᓵᖅᑕᐅᔪᓕᓯᓕᑎᒃ ᓴᓵᓂᓪᓚᓂᖅᐸᖅᓂᓂᒃ ᐊᑐᖅᓯᓕᒃ ᐊᑐᖅᑕᐅᓪᓯᖅᓕᒃ ᓴᓵᐅᑎᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᑕᐅᔪᓕᔨᑦᓵᖅᓱᓚᖅᑐᑦ. 11
Table 3. Abundance estimates (Jolly 1969 Method II) for caribou on Lougheed Island, July 2016. *N* is the total number of transects required to completely cover study area *Z*, *n* is the number of transects sampled in the survey covering area *z*, *y* is the observed muskoxen, *Y* is the estimated muskoxen with variance Var(*Y*). The coefficient of variation (CV) is also included. 16

Introduction

Peary caribou (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*) are a small, light-coloured subspecies of caribou/reindeer inhabiting the Canadian Arctic Archipelago in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut from the Boothia Peninsula in the south to Ellesmere Island in the north. They are sympatric with muskoxen (*Ovibos moschatus*) over much of their range although diet, habitat preferences, and potentially interspecific interactions separate the two species at a finer scale (Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association [HTA] and Iviq HTA, pers. comm.). Arctic wolves (*Canis lupus arctos*) occur at low densities throughout Peary caribou range, but the most significant cause of population-wide mortality appears to be irregular die-offs precipitated by severe winter weather and ground-fast ice that restricts access to forage (Miller et al 1975, Miller and Gunn 2003, Miller and Barry 2009).

Peary caribou have been surveyed infrequently and irregularly on the Canadian Arctic Archipelago since Tener's 1961 survey, which counted 232 caribou and calculated 4.2 caribou per square mile on Lougheed Island. This density was surprising for such a small, isolated island, but similar to western Mackenzie King Island, which was surveyed the same year (Tener 1963). Subsequent surveys indicated far lower densities of caribou, however - the most recent survey estimated 205-672 caribou on the island (95% CI, Jenkins et al. 2011).

Although there is no harvest currently reported of Peary caribou on Lougheed Island, there is some connectivity between the Findlay Group and the Bathurst Island Group, which is largely relied up on by Resolute for caribou harvesting, since the caribou population on Somerset and Prince of Wales islands has not yet recovered. Changes in distribution and abundance between Lougheed and Bathurst islands could indicate movements among the islands or a change in population across all islands.

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ᐱᐅᓗ ᑐᑦ ᑐᐃᑦ (Peary caribou) (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*) ᒥᑭᕐᔪᐊᑦ, ᑕᐅᑦ ᑐᖓᓂᒃ ᖃᐅᔨᒪᓕᕐᓂᖅ ᑐᑦ ᑐᓴᓐᖏᑦ/ᑐᓗᑦ ᑐᓴᖅᓯᑦ ᓂᕆᔨᒃ ᓄᓇᕗᑦ ᐃᓕᓴᐅᔪᓂᒃ ᑭᑭᑭᑦᑐᑦᑐᒥ ᖃᓄᐃᓗᐊᖅ ᐃᓕᓴᐅᔪᓂᒃ ᐊᑐᓂᒃ

ᓇᓗᓇᐃᖅᓯᓂ ᒍ ᑕᐅᒍᓐᓇᖅᑐᓂ ᓇᖅᑐᑐᒃ ᓄᑦ ᑕᕆᐊᖃᖅ ᐊᑯᓘᓐᓃᑦ ᓂᕿᓐ ᓂᕿᓐ ᑕᐃᒪᑦ ᐅᕙᓪ ᓴᓗ ᐊᓂᔪᓐᓃᑦ ᐊᒥᓱᑲᓇᖅ ᐃᓕᓐᓄ ᓇᖅᑐᒃ ᓂᕿᓐ ᑕᐃᒪᑦ .

Study Area

The survey area is predominantly polar desert and semi desert, with rolling topography, highest on the north of the island at 150 m, and a flat coastal plain in the south. Cushion forb barrens dominate the island, with some areas of graminoid-forb tundra, usually at <5% cover and <100 g/m^2 biomass, with isolated patches of 5-50% vegetation cover and biomass increases to 100-500 g/m^2 (Gould et al. 2003, Walker et al. 2005). Mean July temperatures are <3°C (Gould et al. 2003 and references therein).

Methods

Aerial Survey

To define the transect width, we marked survey aircraft wing struts following Norton-Griffiths (1978):

$$w = W\left(\frac{h}{H}\right)$$

where W is the strip width, H is the flight height, h is the observer height when the plane is on the ground and w is calculated, measured and marked on the ground to position wing strut marks. For this survey we only used one mark representing 500 m marked on the wing strut.

Four transects parallel to the long axis of the island were flown at 90 kts with a DeHavilland Twin Otter (Table 1). Weather was clear and sunny although fog banks were present offshore. Flight height was set at 152 m (500 ft) using a radar altimeter. We had one dedicated observer on each side, as well as a navigator/recorder. All observations were marked on a handheld Garmin Montana 650 global positioning system (GPS) unit, which also recorded the flight path every 15 seconds. Sex and age classification was limited, since the aircraft did not make multiple passes (to minimize disturbance), but adult/calf determination was straightforward for groups on transect. GPS tracks and waypoints were downloaded through DNR-GPS and saved in Garmin GPS eXchange Format and as ESRI shapefiles. Data was entered and manipulated in Microsoft Excel and ArcMAP (ESRI, Redlands, CA).

Table 1. Transects on Lougheed Island for a fixed-wing survey, July 28, 2016.

Transect	Length (km)	Lon (North)	Lat (North)	Lon (South)	Lat (South)
1	58.22	-105.5344	77.7193	-104.3511	77.1957
2	76.80	-105.8722	77.7620	-104.4662	77.1456
3	76.59	-106.0556	77.7399	-104.6470	77.1261
4	40.52	-105.6982	77.4915	-104.9597	77.1668

Analysis

Flights linking consecutive transects were removed for population analysis, although survey speed and height were maintained and all observations recorded as if on survey. Similarly, sections of transect crossing water were removed.

Although Jolly's (1969) Method II is widely used for population estimates from surveys, it is designed for a simple random design, rather than for a systematic survey of a patchy population. For comparison,

population calculations following Jolly's Method II are provided in Appendix 4, along with calculations following a systematic stratified survey design (Cochran 1977). The muskoxen and caribou detected in this survey were patchily distributed and serially correlated, not randomly distributed. For systematic samples from serially correlated populations, estimates of uncertainty based on deviations from the sample mean are expected to be upwardly biased and influenced by the degree of serial correlation; high serial correlation implies that there is less random variation in the unsurveyed sections between systematically spaced transects than if serial correlation were low (Cochran 1977). Calculating uncertainty based on nearest-neighbor differences incorporates serial correlation, and the upward bias in the uncertainty is expected to be less than if it were calculated based on deviations from the sample mean. Nearest-neighbor methods have been used previously to calculate variance around survey estimates on the unweighted ratio estimate (Kingsley et al. 1981, Stirling et al. 1982, Kingsley et al. 1985, Anderson and Kingsley 2015).

The model for observations on a transect survey following Cochran (1977) is:

$$y_i = Rz_i + \varepsilon_i\sqrt{z_i}$$

Where y_i is the number of observations on transect *i* of area z_i, R is the mean density and error terms ε_i are independently and identically distributed. In this model, the variance of the error term is proportional to the area surveyed. The best estimate of the mean density $\hat{R}$ is:

$$\hat{R} = \frac{\sum_i y_i}{\sum_i z_i}$$

The error sum of squares, based on deviations from the sample mean, is given by:

$$\left(\sum_i \frac{{y_i}^2}{z_i}\right) - \frac{(\sum_i y_i)^2}{\sum_i z_i}$$

The finite-population corrected error variance of $\hat{R}$ is:

$$Var(\hat{R}) = \frac{(1-f)}{(n-1)\sum_i z_i}\left(\left(\sum_i \frac{{y_i}^2}{z_i}\right) - \frac{(\sum_i y_i)^2}{\sum_i z_i}\right)$$

Where f is the sampling fraction and n is the number of transects. The sampling fraction also provides the scaling factor for moving from a ratio (population density) to a population estimate. It is calculated as $(\sum z_i)/Z$, where Z is the study area and $\sum z_i$ is the area surveyed. The irregular study area boundaries mean that f varies from the 20% sampling fraction expected from a 1-km survey strip and 5-km transect spacing.

If we were to apply a model $y_i = Rz_i + \varepsilon_i$ instead, then the variance of the error term would be independent of z, so the variance would depend on the number of items in the sample, but not their total size. This would lead to a least squares estimate of R of $\sum zy / \sum z^2$, rather than the more intuitive density definition and model for R presented above.

To incorporate serial correlation in the variance, we used a nearest-neighbor calculation, with the error sum of squares given by:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-1}\left(\frac{y_i^2}{z_i}+\frac{y_{i+1}^2}{z_{i+1}}-\frac{(y_i+y_{i+1})^2}{z_i+z_{i+1}}\right)$$

i.e. the sum of squared deviations from pairwise weighted mean densities. The nearest-neighbor error variance of $\hat{R}$ is:

$$Var(\hat{R})=\frac{(1-f)}{(n-1)\sum_i z_i}\sum_{i=1}^{n-1}\left(\frac{y_i^2}{z_i}+\frac{y_{i+1}^2}{z_{i+1}}-\frac{(y_i+y_{i+1})^2}{z_i+z_{i+1}}\right)$$

Both variance calculations were applied to the Devon Island survey data. In addition, calculations for these strata based on Jolly's (1969) Method II and Cochran's (1977) systematic survey models are provided in the appendices for comparison. For the final estimate, we used the nearest neighbor variance. All distance measurements used North Pole Azimuthal Equidistant projection and area-dependent work used North Pole Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area, with central meridian at 88°W and latitude of origin at 76°N (centered over the study area for high precision).

Population growth rates were calculated following the exponential growth function, which approximates growth when populations are not limited by resources or competition (Johnson 1996):

$$N_t = N_0 e^{rt} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \lambda = e^r$$

Where N_t is the population size at time t and N_0 is the initial population size (taken here as the previous survey in 2008). The instantaneous rate of change is r, which is also represented as a constant ratio of population sizes, λ. When r >0 or λ >1, the population is increasing; when r <0 or λ <1 the population is decreasing. Values of r ~0 or λ ~1 suggest a stable population.

Results

We flew the survey on July 28, 2016 with 252 km on transect, equating to 18.5% coverage of Lougheed Island. The primary intent of the survey was to locate caribou groups for ground sampling efforts July 28-31, so Edmund Walker, Grosvenor, and Patterson islands were not covered. We saw 61 caribou (26 on transect) and no muskoxen. Although we saw no wolves during the survey, fresh tracks at the airstrip confirmed that they are still present on the island (2 wolves were seen on the south end of the island in July 2015). Spatial data presented in Figure 4 represents waypoints taken during the survey along transects and includes on- and off-transect sightings. Except for groups observed on the transect line, waypoints have error associated with the group's distance from the plane.

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ᖁᓛᒃᑲᓂᕐᓂᑐᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅ ᓴᖅᑭᑦ 28, 2016 252 km–ᓂᒃ ᑲᓇᖅᑐᒥ ᐃᓕᖅᖁᓪᓗᒍ , ᐊᒃᓴᓂᐅᑦ ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥᒃ 18.5%–ᖏᑐ ᐊᑕᖏᖅᓇᓂᖅ Lougheed ᖃᓄᖅ ᑕᐅᐸ. ᑐᑦᓱᒪᓕ ᓄᐊᑕᐅᓇᒪᓂᕐᓂᖅ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅ ᓴᖅᑭᑦ ᓂᕆᔨᒃ ᓄᐃᒪᓕᐸᑦ ᓇᓂᐊᖅᑐᑦ ᑐᑦᑐᒥᒃ ᓄᐃᒪᓕᖅᑐᑦ ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥᒃ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅ ᖃᓄᖅ ᑕᐅᓂᖅᓱᖅᓇᓂᖅ ᐊᑕᖏᓐᓂᒃ ᓄᓇᑦ ᑐᒃ ᑐᐃᑦ ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥᒃ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅ ᖃᓄᖅ ᑕᐅᓂᖅᓱᖅᓇᓂᖅ ᐊᑭᓚᐅᖅᑐᓄᑦ ᓄᓇᑦ ᑐᒃ ᑐᐃᑦ ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥᒃ ᐃᓕᖅᖁᓪᓗᒍ 28-31, ᑕᐃᒪᓕ ᐃᒪᓕ ᒪᑦ ᖃᓄᖅ ᖃᐅᔨᒪᓕᐸᑦ Edmund Walker, Grosvenor, ᐊᒪᓕ ᒪᓄ Patterson ᐅᓴᓐ ᐃᐃᐅᓂᒪᓕᓵᖖᑦ ᑐᑦ. ᑕᑯᔭᔭᔪᑦ 61–ᓂᒃ ᑐᒃ ᑐᓂᒃ (26 ᑲᓇᖅᑐᓂᒪᓕᔭᓂ) ᐅᒥᑦ ᒪᑦ ᑕᖏᕐᓂᓄ. ᑕᑯᓕᐅᓵᖖᑦ ᑲᑎᒃ ᓄᓇᐊᖅᑐᒍᑦ ᐊᒪᓕᑭᑦ ᓂᑎᓵᓂ, ᑐᒥᓂᒃ ᓄᓇᒻᒥᒃ ᓇᑮᓂᒃ ᓄᓇᕗᐃᐃᖅᑕᐅᔭᓂᖅ ᖃᓄᔭᓂᒥᐅ ᐃᒪᓕᒃ ᑲᒥᐅᓂᖅ ᖃᓄᖅ ᑕᐅᐸ 2015–ᒥ). ᑲᑎᖅᓇᓂᖅᑕᐅᓇᒪᓕᔭᑦ ᑕᑯᑦᓴᓄᑕᐅᔭᑦ ᑎᑎᖅᑐᑉᓱᖅᓇᒪᓕᒥ 4–ᒥ ᑕᑯᑦᓴᓄᑕᐅᓇᓂᑦ ᑲᓇᖅᑐᓂᖅᓂᖅ ᖁᓛᒃᑲᓂᕐᓂᑐᑦ ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥᒃ ᐊᖏᓇᓂᐅᑦ ᓄᓇᑦ ᐅᓇᓂᒃᓴᖅᓂᖅ ᐃᓄᖅ ᐅᓇᓂᒃᓴᖅᓂᖅ

ᑕᑯᑦᓴᓂᓄᑦ ᑲᓱᖏᓱᒪᓕᕆᔨᓄᓪ ᑕᑯᔾᐅᕐᓂᓄᑦ . ᐊᑭᓗ ᓴᐅᑲᓪᓚᐊᖏᑦ ᑐᑦ ᑐᐃᑦ ᑲᑎᒪᐅᖏᑦᑐᑦ ᑲᓱᖏᓵᓂᓕᕐᓂᑦ , ᐊᖏᑯᑎᒋᑦᑕᑦ ᑕᒪ ᓕᖏᓱᒪᓄᖏᑐᑦ ᐊᑦ ᑐᐊᕐᓄᑦ ᑲᑎᒪᐅᖏᑦᑐᑦ ᐅᖓᓯᓵᓄᑦ ᓄᑦ ᖃᖓᑕᕐᓴᓵᓂᑦᑎᓐᓄᑦ .

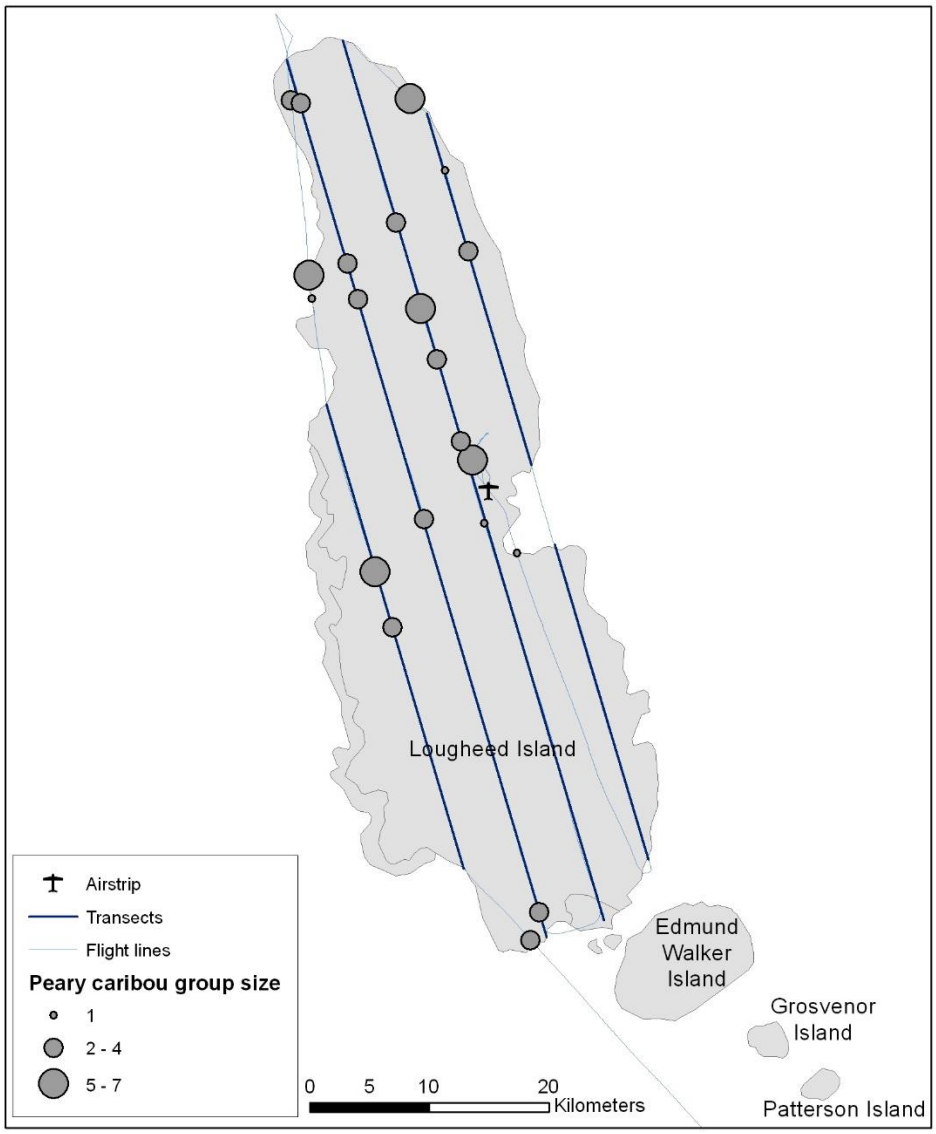

Figure 1. Observations of Peary caribou on Lougheed Island, July 2016, including observations on and off transect, and on ferry flights. ᑎᑎᖏᑐᐃᓱᖏᓱᓕᕆᔨᖏᑦ 2. ᑕᑯᔾᐅᕐᓂᑦ ᐱᐅᓗᑐᐃᑦ ᑐᐃᑦ Lougheed ᖃᑭᖏᖏᑦ ᑕᓖᒍᓂᖅ, ᔨᓂᓪᓗ 2016-ᒥ , ᐱᖏᓱᓂ ᐅᑎᑦᓂᓂᑦ ᑎᑎᑦ ᖏᐅᔨᓴᓂᖏᑦᑕᑦ ᑲᓱᖏᓵᓂᑦ ᐃᓕᓴᕐᒥᓪᓚ. ᐊᓗᑦ ᓚᓪ ᐅᑎᒥ ᐊᖓᑦ ᔨᐊᓗᑦ ᓚᓗᑦ ᑯᓐᓄᑦ ᑲᓴᖏᓪᓚ.

A population estimate was calculated for Peary caribou, but the few observations limit the precision of the estimate. Population estimates and variances are presented in **Error! Reference source not found.**.

ᐊᒥᓱᓂᖅᑐᖅ ᓇᓪᐅᑦᓴᖏᓱᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᐱᐅᓗᑐᐃᑦ ᑐᐃᓇᑦ , ᑭᓱᐊᓂ ᐊᒥᓱᓵᖅᑐᖅ ᓂᐅᑦᓱᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᑕᑯᑦᓱᑎᑦ , ᐊᐅᖏᓱᓕᔪᑕᐅᓕᖅᑐᑦ ᓚᐅᐃᑦᓴᖏᓱᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᑎᑎᖏᑐᐃᓱᖏᓱᓕᕆᔨᖏᑦ 2–ᒥ .

Table 2. Peary caribou population calculations Lougheed Island with variance calculated by nearest neighbor methods and by deviations from the sample mean.

	Stratum area Z (km^2)	Surveyed area z (km^2)	Count, y	Estimate, $\hat{Y}$	Density, $\hat{R}$ (per km^2)	Error Sum of Squares	Var ($\hat{Y}$)	SE	CV
Nearest-Neighbor Difference	1359.6	252.1	26	**140**	0.103	0.713	1064.78	32.63	0.232
Sample Mean Difference	1359.6	252.1	26	**140**	0.103	0.449	670.57	25.90	0.185

ᑎᑎᖅᑐᓴ ᖃᓄᐃᒪᔨᖅ 3. ᐱᐅᓗ ᑐᑦ ᑐᐃᑦ ᐊᒥᓂᖅ ᓂᐅᓐ ᓴᓇ ᐃᓂᐅᓄᒃ ᒪᔨᑦ Lougheed ᖃᑭᖅᑕᓂᓂ ᐊᑦ ᓄᑦᓂᖅ ᓂᐅᓄᔨᑦ ᓴᓇ ᖅᑕᐅᓄᒪᑦ ᓄᓂ ᐃᓕᓴᐅᔪᖅ ᐊᑐᖅᓄᒃ ᐊᑐᖅᑕᐅᑕᖅᓄᑎᒃ ᓴᓇ ᐅᑎᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᖅᓴᓂᖅ ᐊᑐᖅᑕᐅᓄᒪᑦ ᓄᓂ ᐊᑐᖅᑕᐅᑕᖅᓄᑎᒃ ᓴᓇ ᐅᑎᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᖅᓴᓂᖅ ᓄᓂᓂᖅᓴᓂᖅ

Island, at least 110 km across the sea ice from Bathurst Island (Poole et al. 2015). She then continued 110 km across the ice to Borden Island, where she died in December 1995 (Poole et al. 2015).

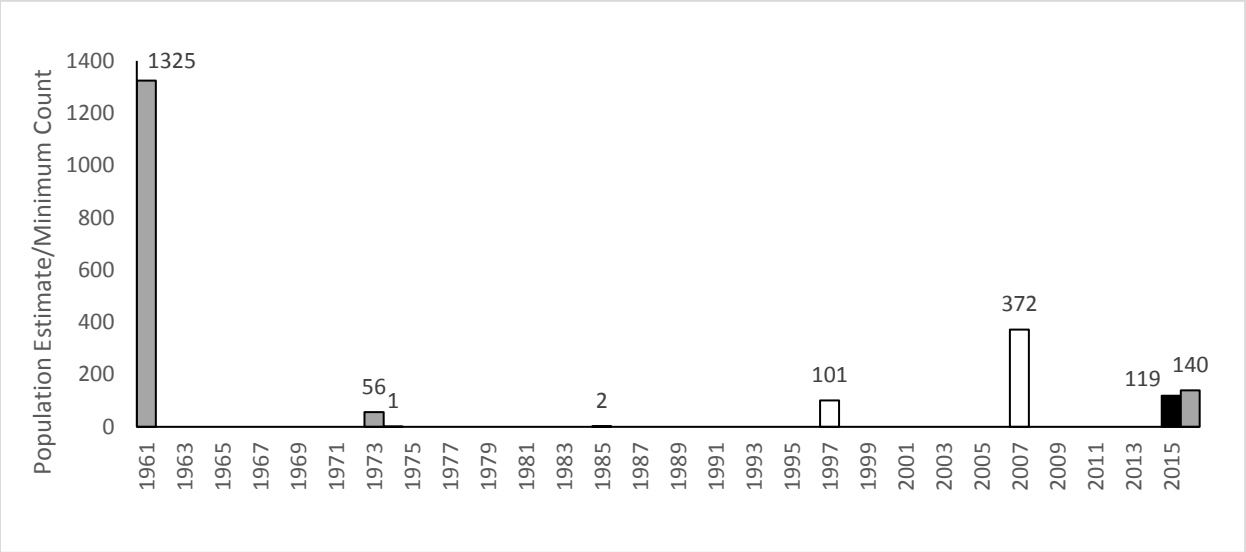

Figure 3. Population estimates for Peary caribou on Lougheed Island. Grey bars indicate estimates including calves (Tener 1963, Miller et al. 1977, this report), black bars are minimum counts (Miller et al. 1977, Miller 1987, this report for 2015), and white bars are population estimates of 1+-year-old caribou (Gunn and Dragon 2002, Jenkins et al. 2011).

Although not conducted as a survey, we did fly over Lougheed Island in 2015 to determine whether we could collect pellet samples using a Twin Otter drop-off and pick-up, or whether a helicopter would be required. We counted at least 119 Peary caribou during the flight, including some groups of 15-20 individuals (in which case the lower value was added for the minimum count of 119; Figure 4). Flight height was 90-150 m above ground and conditions were clear and sunny, with one observer each side of the plane and a navigator/recorder. No marks were made on the wing struts to define a survey strip.

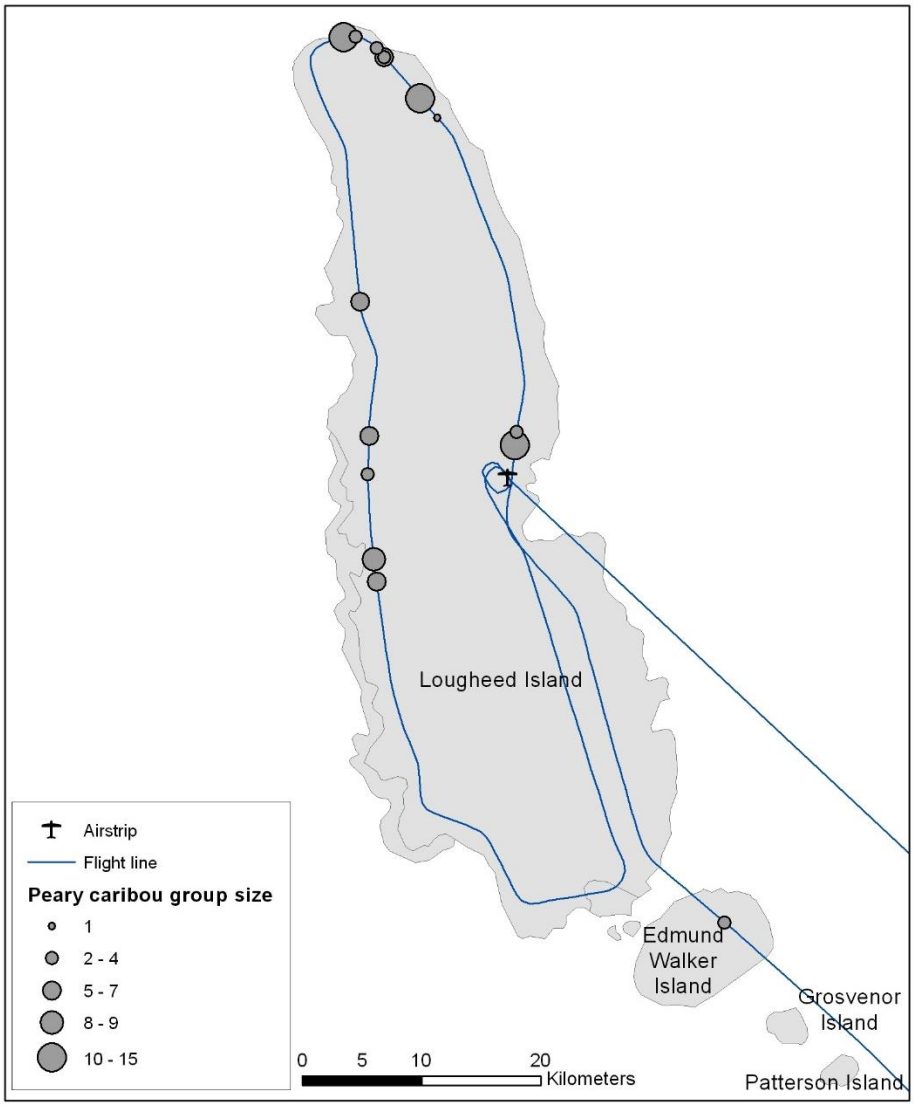

Figure 4. Locations of Peary caribou groups seen on a July 23, 2015 Twin Otter flight over Lougheed Island.

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ᓄᓇᕗᑦ ᓴᓇ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓕᕆᑦ ᓂᐅᕐᓄᒪᓕᕆᔨᑦ Lougheed ᖁᑭᖅ ᖃᑕᖏᓇ ᐊᑐᖅᓄᒪᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᐊᒃ ᓴᑦᓯᓂᓂᖅ ᑐᓂᖅ ᖃᓄᖅ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᓂᑦ ᒪᑦ ᑐᓂᖅ ᓴᖅᑭᐅᕐᓂᖅ (Piper Super Cub ᐊᒡ ᒪ ᓗ deHavilland Beaver, Tener 1963; Helio-courier, Gunn ᐊᒡ ᒪ ᓗ Dragon 2002; Bell 206 ᖃᓄᐃᒍᑕᖅ , Jenkins et al. 2011; ᒪᖅᑭᓕᖅ ᑕᕐᓂ ᖁᓂ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᓂᑦ ᒥᑦ) ᐊᒃ ᓴᑦᓯᓂᓂᖅ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓕᕆᓂᖅ ᑕᕐᓂ ᖁᓂᑕᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᐃᓗᓐᓂ ᓇᐅᓂᖅ ᖃᖅᑎᑦ ᑐᒍᑦ ᐊᑦ ᑲᒍᑦ ᐃᓗᐊᓂ (ᐅᐱᖅᑦ ᓴᐃᖅ ᓄᑦ , Miller et al. 1977, Jenkins et al. 2011; ᐊᐅᔪᖅ ᓄᑦ , Tener 1961, Miller et al. 1977, Miller 1987, Gunn ᐊᒡ ᒪ ᓗ Dragon 2002, ᐅᖁᓂ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓕᕆᑦ ᓂᑦ ᒥ). 1974 ᐊᒡ ᒪ ᓗ 1985, ᐃᓇᐃᓴᑦ ᑐᕐᓵᓗᐃᑦ ᑐᖅ ᑐᐃᑦ ᑕᓄᔪ ᐅᓂᒪᓕᕆᑦ . 1997–ᖃᐅᑎᑦ ᓗᒍ , ᑕᕐᖁᐅᔨᑦ 28±29 ᑐᖅ ᑐᒥ ᓂᑦ ᓇᓗᓇᐃᖅᓄᓂᒪ ᑕᕐᓂᐃᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᑐᓴᕐᓄᓂᒪᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᖁᑭᖅ ᖃᑕᖏᓇ ᐊᒡ ᒪ ᓗ gunn ᐊᒡ ᒪ ᓗ Dragon 2002).

ᓄᐊᒡ ᒪᑦᑎᓂᒪᓕᕆᑦ ᓄᓪᓕᒥᐅᖅ ᐱᒃᓴᓂᒪᓕᕆᑦ ᑐᑎᕆᖃᑦᑕᐅᓂᒪᓕᕆᑦ ᐊᓂᓐᓂ ᓂ ᐅᑭ ᐅᖃᖅᑕᑐᒥ ᖁᑭᖅ ᖃᑕᓂ 1970–ᖃᓐᓂ ᓂ ᐱᒃ ᒧᑕᐅᓂᒪᓕᕆᑦ ᓇᓚᐊᓕᒃ ᑐᖅ ᑐᖃᓂᑦ ᖁᑭᖅ ᖃᑕᒥ 1973 ᐊᒡ ᒪ ᓗ 1974, ᑐᖅᑭᕆᑦ ᓂᖅ ᐱᒃᓴᓂᒪᓕᕆᑦ ᐅᓂᓐᓂ ᐅᕐᓴᓐᓂ ᓅᓕᒃ ᓅᓚᐅᑦᓯᓂᒪᓕᕆᑦ ᖁᑭᖅ ᖃᑕᒥ . ᐊᒥᓄᓇᓂᖅ ᐊᒃ ᓄᐊᓕᖅᑐᒥ 1961–ᒥ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᑕᓂᒃᓄᐅᕐᓄᒪᓕᕆᑦ Lougheed ᖁᑭᖅ ᖃᑕᖏᓇ ᐊᑦ ᑲᒍᓂ 50–ᓂ ᐊᓂᒍᖅᑐᓂ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓕᕆᔨᑦ ᓂᐅᓕᐅᒥᓗᒃ ᖃᓄᓕᕆᓂᖅ. Lougheed ᖁᑭᖅ ᖃᑕᒥ ᑐᖅ ᑐᐃᑦ ᐊᑦ ᑐᖃᖅᑕᐅᓕᕆᑦ ᖁᑎᖅᓯᖏᓇ 1990 ᐊᑦ ᑲᒍᖅᑕ ᑐᑭᓂᒪᓕᕆᑦ ᐊᑦ ᑐᐊᓕᕆᑦ ᐅᑭ ᐅᖃᖅᑦ ᓄᑦ ᓄᓇ ᓂᓗᑦ ᓂᑦ ᓕᐊᑦ ᓄᑦ ᑕᐃᖃᓂ 1996-97, ᓇᓕᐅᑦᓴᖃᖅᑕᐅᓕᕆᑦ 28±SE19 ᑐᖅ ᑐᒥ ᓂᑦ ᖁᑭᖅ ᖃᑕᒥ (Gunn and Dragon 2002). 2007–ᒥ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᓕᖃᖅᑕᐅᓕᕆᑦ ᑎᑎᕐᓂᖃᖅᑕᐅᓕᕆᑦ ᐊᒥᓄᓇᓂ ᓕᓐᓂᓪᓕᓐᓂᒃ ᓕᕐᒥᑕᐅᓕᕆᓕᓕᒃ 13 ᑐᖅ ᑐᓄᑦ Lougheed ᖁᑭᖅ ᖃᑕᖏᓇ ᑭᓱᑦ ᓴᒪᑦ ᑐᑭᓂᕆᓕᐅᖃᖅᑎᓪᓗ ᓗᑎᑦ 1990–ᖃᓐᓂ ᓂ, ᑭᓄᓇ ᐊᓂ ᐊᒥᓄᓇᓂᖅ

ᐃᓄᐃᓕᓐᓂᐅᓐᖏᓐᖑᑦ ᓴᓇᔨᓐᓄᑦ ᐊᖏᑦ ᑭᒍᐃᑦ 9 ᐊᓂᒍᓐᓇᒪᓕᕆᓐᑎᑦᓯᓪᓕᑦ. ᐊᒥᓱᓂᐅᓐᖏᑕᓐᓇᒪᓕᕆᑦ ᑐᓴ ᑐᐃᑦ Melville ᖃᑎᖅ ᐊᒃᓕ ᓄᖅᑲᒻᒥ ᑭᖅᑕᐅᓂᒃᑐᐊᓘᓂᒃ ᐊᓕᕆᔨᒃᑐᑦ ‘ᑭᐟᖅᑕᐅᓇᒪᓕᕆᑦ ᓄᓇᕗᑦ” ᑐᓴ ᑐᓄᑦ. ᐅᑦᑐᑭᐟᓂ 1995-ᖅᑎᑦᓯᒍᒍ, ᓄᖅᑲᑕᕆᔨᒪᓕᕆᔨᒧᐊᓂᒃᑐᑦᓯᓂᒃᑐᑦᑭᑦᓂᖅᑐᓴ ᐃᓕᓐᓄᖅᑎᓪᓗᑎᑦ Lougheed ᖃᑎᖅᑕᐅᓚᑦ, 110 ᑭᓪᓗᒍ ᑕᓂᒃ ᐃᓕᓐᓄᖅᑎᓪᓗᑎᑦ ᐃᓕᓐᓄᖅᑎᓪᓗᑎᑦᐊᑯᑦᖃᖅᑐᑦ

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Appendix 1. Alternate population calculations.

Jolly Method II Calculations

In this report, we used a systematic sampling approach to analysis, since we were estimating abundance of a patchy population rather than estimating density in a habitat (which varied across the study area). Other systematic aerial surveys have frequently used Jolly's Method II, and estimates derived from both analyses were similar. Population estimates for fixed-width strip sampling using Jolly's Method 2 for uneven sample sizes (Jolly 1969; summarized in Caughley 1977) are derived as follows:

$$\hat{Y} = RZ = Z\frac{\sum_i y_i}{\sum_i z_i}$$

Where $\hat{Y}$ is the estimated number of animals in the population, R is the observed density of animals (sum of animals seen on all transects $\sum_i y_i$ divided by the total area surveyed $\sum_i z_i$), and Z is the total study area. The variance is given by:

$$Var(\hat{Y}) = \frac{N(N-n)}{n}\left(s_y^2 - 2Rs_{zy} + R^2 s_z^2\right)$$

Where N is the total number of transects required to completely cover study area Z, and n is the number of transects sampled in the survey. s_y^2 is the variance in counts, s_z^2 is the variance in areas surveyed on transects, and s_{zy} is the covariance. The estimate $\hat{Y}$ and variance $Var(\hat{Y})$ are calculated for each stratum and summed. The Coefficient of Variation (CV = $\sigma/\hat{Y}$) was calculated as a measure of precision.

Table 4. Abundance estimates (Jolly 1969 Method II) for caribou on Lougheed Island, July 2016. *N* is the total number of transects required to completely cover study area *Z*, *n* is the number of transects sampled in the survey covering area *z*, *y* is the observed muskoxen, *Y* is the estimated muskoxen with variance Var(*Y*). The coefficient of variation (CV) is also included.

Y	**Var(Y)**	**n**	**Z (km²)**	**z (km²)**	**N**	**y**	**Density (per km²)**	**CV**
140	1511.91	4	1359.58	252.13	24	26	0.1031	0.28