

may belong, is the deadly enemy of science. In striving for the attainment of these objects, I have been but one among many, and I shall be well content to be remembered, or even not remembered, as such."

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THE ST. ELIAS BEAR.

A BEAR has been for some time reported as frequenting the vicinity of the glaciers of the St. Elias Alpine region, which is regarded by the Indians and hunters as a distinct species from either the black or the large brown bear of Alaska. It is of moderate size, the largest skins not exceeding six feet in length, and is reported to be shy and less fierce than either of the others. The examination of four well preserved trapper's skins of this animal in the possession of Major Turner, of Sitka, has convinced me that we have to do with an animal which is unlike either of the common bears of the region, and specifically distinct from the brown bear of Alaska, which has been cited of late under the name of *Ursus Richardsonii* of Mayne Reid, though perhaps forming a separate race from the typical Barren Ground bear. Whether the St. Elias bear forms a distinct species from the black bear is doubtful, but it is at least a well defined local race, to which I have seen no approximation among the thousands of black bear skins which I have examined in past years in the hands of traders in this Territory. As such it seems desirable to call attention to it by such a description as is practicable at this time.

The general color of the animal resembles that of a silver fox. The fur is not very long, but remarkably soft and with a rich under fur of a bluish black shade, numbers of the longer hairs being white, or having the distal half white and the basal part slaty. The dorsal line from the tip of the nose to the rump, the back of the very short ears, and the outer faces of the limbs, are jet black. Numerous long white hairs issue from the ears; black and silver is the prevalent pelage

of the sides, neck and rump; the under surface of the belly and the sinuses behind the limbs are grayish white, or even nearly pure white, I am told, in some cases. The sides of the muzzle and the lower anterior part of the cheeks are of a bright tan color, a character I have not seen in any other American bear; and this character is said to be invariable. There is no tint of brown elsewhere in the pelage. There is no tail visible on the pelts. The claws are small, very much curved, sharp, black above and lighter below; the animal evidently can climb trees, which the brown bear cannot do.

This bear is known to range about the St. Elias glaciers, especially near Yakutat, and a single specimen has been killed on the mountains as far east as Jureau. About thirty-five skins have been brought to Sitka, mostly from Yakutat. A mounted skin, the only one known as yet (said to contain the skull), is in the possession of Mr. Frank A. Bartlett, of Port Townshend, Wash.

My attention was called to this animal by Lieut. G. T. Emmons, U. S. N., well known in connection with the fine collection of Alaskan ethnology in the American Museum of New York; and I would suggest the varietal name of *Emmonsii* for the St. Elias bear. It is also known among the fur dealers here as the Glacier, or the Blue bear. I hope to be able to secure specimens of the skin and skull for the National Museum, through the Yakutat hunters, later.

It is worthy of note that the Indians report another animal unknown to naturalists, on the higher mountains of the mainland. It is said to resemble the mountain sheep and to have horns nearly as long but almost straight, like those of an ibex. Lieut. Emmons is confident that these reports have a basis in fact.

WM. H. DALL.

SITKA, ALASKA, June 28, 1895.