

Why the Capital and Apostrophe "S"

THE QUESTION IS OFTEN RAISED WHY BOONE AND CROCKETT REFERS TO CERTAIN BIG GAME ANIMALS, SUCH AS STONE'S SHEEP WITH A CAPITAL "S" AND AN APOSTROPHE "S" INSTEAD OF "STONE SHEEP." THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE PROCESS OF A NAMING A NEW SPECIES AND TO WHOM THE HONOR GOES.

Every time a new animal (or plant for that matter) is discovered, the original collector generally brings specimens to a biologist who is an authority on that kind of organism. If he feels an unknown species is represented he will give it a Latin name, designate a type specimen, and describe it in an appropriate scientific publication.

Of interest to students of our big game animals are two examples of this procedure. In the 1890's a young dry goods salesman, Andrew Jackson Stone, of Missoula, Montana, was spending every bit of his spare time in the woods and writing for an outdoor magazine entitled, *Recreation*. He impressed the editors enough so they decided to send him on an exploratory collecting trip to the wilds of northern British Columbia. There wasn't an Alaska highway at that time, making the region most difficult to reach. Stone took off from Wrangell, Alaska, first by steamer and then by canoe and ascended the Stikine River. He was gone for four months exploring and collecting specimens to be added to museum collections. On this trip he discovered a dark-skinned mountain sheep with thinner horns than those that grow on bighorn sheep from farther south. There were three rams, a 6-year old, a 5-year old and a yearling. These three were mounted in Wrangell by a taxidermist and were displayed as a unit and then shipped to New York City. They were displayed at a sportsman's show and then presented to the American Museum of Natural History where the leading mammalogist described the specimens as a new species, *Ovis stonei*. Dr. J. A. Allen designated the adult ram as the type specimen and described the great hardship and effort Stone had made to obtain these fine specimens. The American Museum sent Stone back to the north-

west on several additional collecting trips, some of which went into Alaska. Allen described several species of mammals from Stone's collections and he named four other species after the intrepid explorer from the many hundreds of specimens returned to the museum.



ANDREW JACKSON STONE. PHOTO COURTESY OF *THE WHITE WORLD: LIFE AND ADVENTURE WITHIN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE* PORTRAYED BY FAMOUS LIVING EXPLORERS.

On one of these trips, Stone spent an entire winter in Alaska traveling thousands of miles by dog sled. It was, perhaps, only by the flip of a coin that he wasn't the one selected to lead the expedition to the North Pole instead of Admiral Peary. This story is told in detail by my colleague, Robert Schipf, science librarian emeritus, at the University of Montana, and reprints of this article can be obtained by writing the Boone and Crockett Headquarters in Missoula. Stone's sheep is now regarded as a sub-species of Dall's Sheep, the all-white one, from Yukon and Alaska, which had been described 20 years earlier. After some 10 years of this rugged life, Stone left the Museum and became interested in hydroelectric power in Alaska. Tragically, he drowned when his canoe overturned in the Bering Sea.

During the early part of the century, a lawyer and later Congressman,

George Shiras III, was developing flash photography which allowed animals to trip the shutter and take their own picture even at night. On one of his exploratory trips, he ascended the Yellowstone River south of Yellowstone Lake into country that apparently had never been explored before. It was remarkable that he discovered a sizable moose population which he estimated at 1500 individuals in the area. Although many tourists were visiting Yellowstone at that time, moose were unknown in the park until this discovery. This story is told in the July issue of the 1913 *National Geographic*. In 1915, he arranged for a pair of these moose to be collected just south of the Park and sent to the U.S. National Museum in Washington, D.C. There, the Chief of the Biological Survey, Dr. Edward W. Nelson, described and designated these two as the types for *Alces americana shirasi*. Nelson made a point about this subspecies being much lighter in color than Canada moose from farther north in Canada. Now the Shiras moose intergrades (hybridizes) in southern Alberta and British Columbia with a Canadian subspecies, which is generally larger bodied and with bigger antlers. Fortunately, through proper protection and management the Shiras or Wyoming moose population inhabiting Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and northwestern Washington is hunted regularly and is prospering in these states. It may be of interest that J.A. Allen, Edward Nelson, and George Shiras III, were all Professional members of the Boone and Crockett Club. In the early history of conservation in the U.S., Shiras is better known for the great effort he made to protect migratory birds by giving them federal protection. History tells us that his bill was twice defeated in Congress, but later passed and signed into law by President Taft.



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THIS PARTICULAR STONE'S SHEEP IS THE TYPE SPECIMEN COLLECTED BY ANDREW JACKSON STONE. IT WAS THIS SHEEP THAT WAS USED BY DR. ALLEN TO DETERMINE THE NEW SPECIES.

