

Mammals

Grizzly Bears

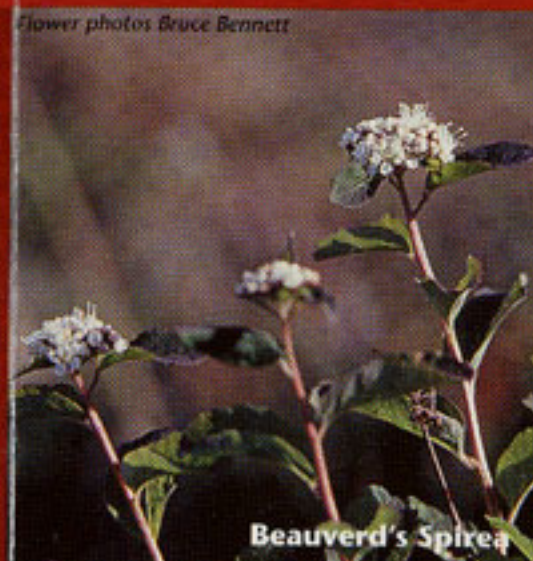
Near the Keno City Signpost, you'll probably hear a variety of whistles and squeaks coming from the rocky slope, especially on sunny days. Hoary marmots, or "whistlers" are large alpine rodents (weighing up to 10 kg, or 22 lbs!) that live in family communal burrows, and they love to bask on rocks in the warm sun. Collared pikas are actually short-eared members of the rabbit family that live in alpine rock piles and make hay for the winter by cutting and drying grass. Everywhere, you'll hear the shrill alarm call of Arctic ground squirrels, and, if you're lucky, you may even see a grizzly bear trying to make a dinner of one!

The marmots are quite used to people and may stray far from their burrows, so please do not let your dogs run free.

Cautions

We would like to add a few precautions that you should take while you are visiting Keno Hill. There are numerous old buildings and mine shafts on the mountain, and most of them are not marked and are in poor condition. Please keep away from the buildings, and stick to marked trails for your safety. Also, do not collect any of the mining equipment or other artifacts you see—these are private property. The Keno City Mining Museum's collection is renowned for its excellent mining exhibits.

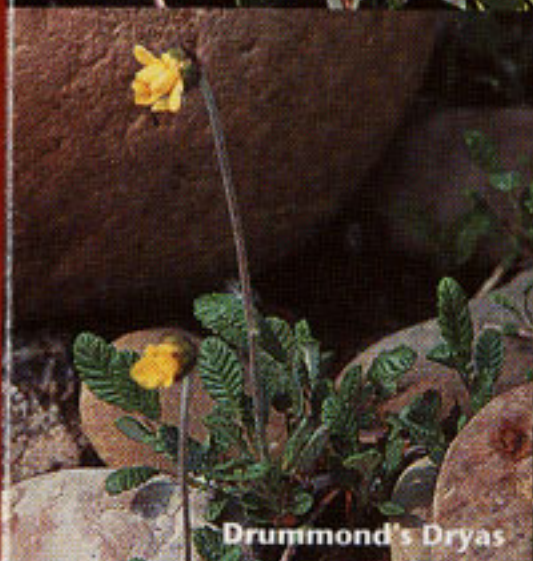
flower photos Bruce Bennett



Beauverd's Spirea



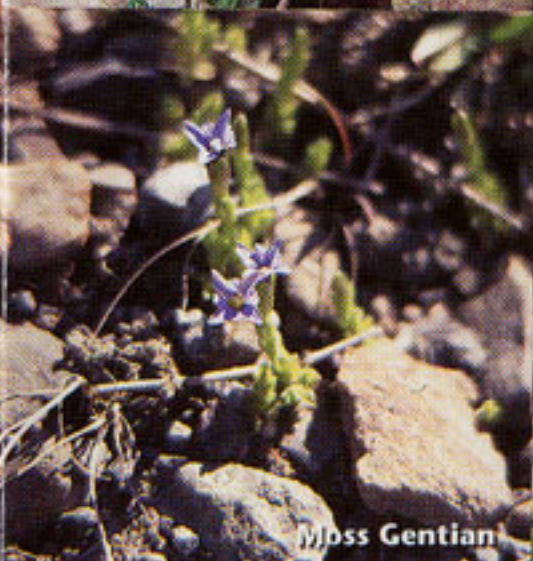
Mountain Avenas



Drummond's Dryas



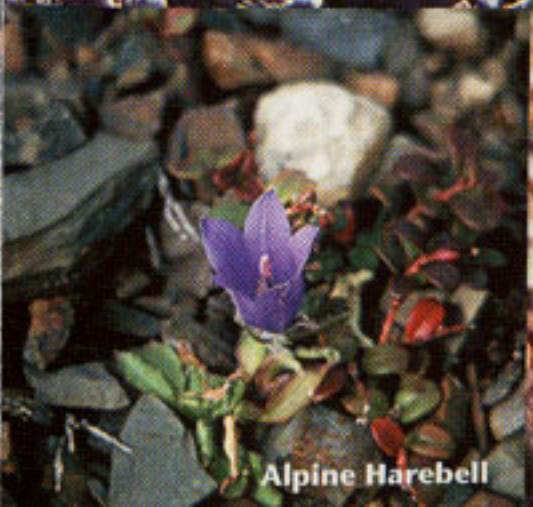
Few-flowered Corydalis



Moss Gentian



Alpine Speedwell



Alpine Harebell



Few-flowered Lousewort

Common Species

Butterflies

Eversmann's Parnassian
Old World Swallowtail
Canadian Tiger Swallowtail
Western White
Arctic White
Hecla Sulphur
Palaeno Sulphur
Northern Blue
Cranberry Blue
Arctic Blue
Mountain Fritillary
Dingy Fritillary
Polaris Fritillary
Freija Fritillary
Arctic Fritillary
Hoary Comma
Banded Alpine
White-veined Arctic
Melissa Arctic
Polixenes Arctic

Birds

Golden Eagle
Northern Harrier
Willow Ptarmigan
American Golden-Plover
Short-eared Owl
Horned Lark
American Pipit
Blue Grouse
Golden-Crowned Sparrow
American Tree Sparrow

Wildflowers

Bistort
Long-leaved Starwort
Monkshood
Narcissus Anemone
Yellow Anemone
Snow Buttercup
Few-flowered Corydalis
Roseroot
Yellow Marsh Saxifrage
Mountain Avenas
Drummond's Avenas
Ross' Avenas
Two-flowered Cinquefoil
Beauverd's Spirea
Hairy Arctic Milk-vetch
Alpine Bearberry
Northern Labrador Tea
Northern Shooting Star
Moss Gentian
Pale Paintbrush
Few-flowered Lousewort
Alpine Speedwell
Alpine Harebell

Mammals

Grizzly Bear
Short-tailed Weasel
Collared Pika
Hoary Marmot
Arctic Ground Squirrel



This publication was produced with contributions made by the Keno City Community Club

For more information
contact the Wildlife Viewing
Program (867)667-8291 or
www.renres.yk.ca/viewing

Yukon
Tourism
Heritage Branch

VIEWING Alpine Wildlife

ON KENO HILL



Viewing alpine wildlife on Keno Hill



Collared Pika

Welcome to Keno City! We hope you enjoy our hospitality, our beautiful natural surroundings, and our rich mining history. Keno City, population 18, is nestled in the mountains at about 3,100 feet, and it retains much of the nostalgia of its heyday in the early 1900's.

We are proud of our mining history and also for the unique wildlife and scenery with which we live. The mountains surrounding Keno City remained ice-free during the last ice age about 10,000



years ago, when much of North America was covered by glaciers. As a result, they are home to plants and animals unique to "Beringia", the unglaciated grassland that once stretched from the Yukon, across Alaska to Siberia. The mining roads around Keno City provide easy access up into the mountains, so visitors have an excellent

opportunity to view alpine wildlife that is rarely available elsewhere.

This publication describes the wildlife you are most likely to see on Keno Hill, some special wildlife projects that the community has initiated, and advice about how you can best enjoy your wildlife viewing without disturbing animals or the habitat they live in.

About the butterflies



Eversmann's Parnasian

When some people think of Keno Hill, they think not of mining, but of butterflies! The butterflies that live in the rocky alpine tundra in the old Beringia attract enthusiasts from all over the world. Some come to collect specimens, but many more, including local residents, just enjoy watching them.

During 1999 and 2000, the community initiated a special project to find out which species of butterflies were present, and how many were being collected.

Viewing and collecting butterflies

Butterflies need the heat of the sun to warm their bodies before they can fly. The best time to observe butterflies is on warm, sunny days during July. Butterflies depend on very specific food plants when they are in their larval stage, so the kinds of butterflies you'll see will depend on which plants are available. Look especially around wet meadows, at the bases of snow patches or in creek bottoms. Some species of butterflies take 2 years to grow into adulthood.

You are welcome to view and enjoy Keno Hill's butterflies, and we've provided a list of the most common species. The Keno City Mining



Museum has an excellent display of the area's butterflies. If you want to collect any butterflies, you will need a Yukon Scientists and Explorers Permit.

Contact the Yukon's Heritage Branch: 867-667-5363 or www.yukonheritage.com for more information.

Birds



American Pipit

There are many species of birds that nest in the alpine tundra. You'll likely see ptarmigan in their brown summer plumage, Horned Larks, and American Pipits. American Golden-Plovers migrate all the way from South America (approximately 4,000 miles) to nest in these northern mountains.

Bird nests are very well-hidden, so be careful where you step! If you encounter an aggravated bird, you're

Willow Ptarmigan



Short-eared Owl

likely near their nest and should back away from the area to avoid harming the eggs or chicks.

American Golden-Plover

Wildflowers



Two-flowered Cinquefoil



Ross' Avena



Bistort

The display of colour put on by Keno Hill's wildflowers each summer is dazzling. We know of 91 different species on the mountain, and there are surely more to be discovered. Most of the flowers are in full bloom in July.



Snow Buttercup

While you're enjoying the flowers, please avoid trampling the fragile vegetation, especially in the wetter areas. The butterflies depend on them for food.



Field of flowers

Roseroot