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progress report
for 1973-1974*

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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

ON

THE ECOLOGY OF THE SPRUCE-FIR
FOREST TYPE OF
ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

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By

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This year's research on the spruce-fir forest ecology study is in three parts:

- (1) A study of the nature of the forest and the prevalence of fire before white man settled on Isle Royale.
- (2) A study of red squirrel, snowshoe hare and moose populations as related to post-fire seral stages of the spruce-fir forest type.
- (3) A study of the ecology of thimble berry.

The field work accomplished during the summer of 1973 is described in the last progress report dated October 20, 1973.

We are presently in the midst of analyzing data and performing laboratory analysis. The most time - consuming task has been that of analyzing the pollen and charcoal fragments in the lake sediment cores taken from several inland lakes. Randall Raymond, who is doing this phase of the operation is becoming more and more adept at analyzing pollen. It will probably take another year to analyze all of the cores but we plan to have enough of them analyzed by June to give us some preliminary results and to reveal where additional cores should be taken during the summer of 1974. Several samples for radiocarbon dating have been sent to the radiocarbon dating laboratories in Nova Scotia.

We are not in a position at this time to report any results or conclusions from the current year's study. These will have to await our final annual report in June at which time we anticipate having a considerable amount of interesting information to reveal.