Figure 48. Trimline on rocky slope northeast of North Ice Cap 5 km east-northeast of Red Rock Lake. Profuse lichen above, barren area below. Ice Cap on left.

Figure 49. Abandoned outlet, 5 m above present outlet to Red Rock Lake, which established old beach level. Ice of the main Greenland Glacier or associated drifts lay on the left only a few decades ago. North Ice Cap in the background now.

north-northeast and the cutting of grooves in ventifacts indicate a source 1 km northeast of North Lake. By analogy to other active areas seen along the ice edge, this source must have been a valley train of repeatedly washed sands. It is presumed that North Lake stood at a lower level or was nonexistent when the ventifacts were made. When the readvance came, gray drift moraines blocked the lower part of the valley, raising North Lake to a level even higher than it is today, as registered by a series of shorelines from 30 to 96 m above the present lake level. Solifluction lobes which have come down through and over these shorelines may well be a century or two old; the advance is at least that old.

Continuing retreat of Greenland Ice Cap. There are many indications of progressive retreat in stages from the last advanced position of the main Greenland Ice Cap. A common, but not always sharp, "lichen trimline" between higher dark areas in which the rocks are completely covered by lichen and lower areas where both lichen and vascular plants are scarce marks the limit of snowdrifts which prevented sufficient "growing season" for the establishment of plants. Such a line may be seen from a distance across the east slope of Survey Hill, heading indistinctly into the transect line.* It is noteworthy that below the trimline (plat 5 19.5 m above lake) lichen are somewhat sparse and the common vascular plants are:

Luzula confusa
Papaver radicatum
Cerastium arcticum
Draba sp.
Poa arctica
Saxifraga sp.
Polytrichum sp. (moss)

In the upper part of this zone near Cairns 3 and 4 a few small Salix arctica and one specimen of Potentilla sp. appear. Then at and above the trimline (Cairn 5) a much more complete assemblage occurs:

* Wolfe noted only sporadic trimlines here at close range.