Prince Albert National Park in Saskatchewan forms a typical example of the lake country bordering the northwestern prairies, and the Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba, having a general elevation of 2,000 feet above sea-level, contrasts sharply with the fertile plains to the east. In Ontario are located three small park units, the Point Pelee, Georgian Bay Islands, and the St. Lawrence Islands national parks, which were established primarily as recreational areas. Fort Anne National Park in Nova Scotia and Fort Beauséjour National Park in New Brunswick, surround sites notable in early Canadian history.

Two recent additions to Canada's National Park system include areas of approximately 458 square miles in the northern part of Cape Breton island, Nova Scotia, and of approximately ten square miles along the northern shore of Prince Edward island. The Cape Breton Island area presents outstanding examples of rugged coast line with a mountain background. The Prince Edward Island area possesses some of the finest salt-water bathing beaches in Eastern Canada.

The special animal parks were established for the protection of such vanishing species of mammalian wild life as the buffalo, wapiti (elk), and pronghorned antelope, which now thrive under natural conditions in large enclosures especially suited to their requirements. These parks include the Buffalo and Elk Island parks in Alberta, which contain large herds of buffalo, elk, moose, and deer, and the Nemiskam and Wawaskesy parks, also in Alberta, which form sanctuaries for the pronghorned antelope.

In the national parks all wild life is given rigid protection and primal natural conditions are maintained as far as possible. The local administration of the larger parks is carried out by resident superintendents, assisted by park wardens who are responsible for the necessary game and forest patrols. Recreational facilities are many and varied, and in some parks natural attractions have been augmented by the provision of golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, bath-houses, and other features. A number of the parks also possess well-equipped motor campgrounds, which are available to visitors desiring this type of accommodation.

The national parks of Canada are accessible either by railway or motor highway. In addition to being served by the Canadian Pacific or Canadian National Railway systems, most of the parks are either traversed by or linked up with the main arteries of motor travel. More than 600 miles of all-weather motor roads have been built by the National Parks Bureau, which have been instrumental in opening up many of the outstanding beauty spots, while other regions have been made accessible by the construction of more than 2,000 miles of trails.

Migratory Birds Treaty.—This treaty and the legislation making it effective throughout Canada are administered by the National Parks Bureau of the Department of Mines and Resources. The treaty, which has been effective since 1916, has as its object the protection of the valuable migratory bird life of Canada and the United States. Information concerning the treaty, and regulations enacted for its enforcement, may be obtained from the Controller, National Parks Bureau, Ottawa.

Provincial Parks.—Several of the provinces, including Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan, also maintain provincial parks for the protection of wild life and as recreational areas. Among the largest of these are the Algonquin Park (2,740 square miles) in Ontario, and the Laurentides Park (3,565 square miles) in Quebec.