

administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act and the Northwest Game Act, but has dealt with many other problems of wild-life conservation. Through conferences of provincial and Dominion officials, which were convened for many years by the former Department of the Interior but are now arranged by the Department of Mines and Resources, uniform and concerted action has been taken and the conservation of Canada's wild-life resources has been advanced. The general policy followed with regard to the fur-bearing animals has been mainly along two lines: (1) To so regulate the taking of animals by limitation of catch or close season as to prevent their extinction in districts where natural conditions provide a suitable habitat. (2) To provide sanctuaries in strategic places to serve as reservoirs from which large areas of surrounding country may be restocked naturally.

Wild-Life Research in the Northwest Territories.—Through the medium of questionnaires distributed annually, the co-operation of the resident fur traders and trappers and government officials is secured in making a continuous survey of wild-life conditions in the Northwest Territories. By this means data are obtained upon all forms of wild life, particularly those economically important to the natives, such as the caribou and the fur-bearing animals. This is referred to the Bureau of Animal Population, Oxford University, England, for purposes of scientific study.

In making this study the Department also secures information upon the lemming, ptarmigan, and snowy owl, which are subject to periods of abundance and scarcity in the same manner as the fur-bearing animals. The investigation also includes a study of the diseases affecting sleigh dogs. These animals are subject to a disease that periodically reduces their number to an extent that seriously affects the livelihood and economy of the native population.

The Institute of Parasitology, Macdonald College, Quebec, and the Bureau of Animal Population, Oxford University, England, are co-operating with the Department in carrying out the sleigh-dog investigation.

National Parks Bureau.—The Division of Wild Life Protection of the National Parks Bureau carries out migratory-bird and ornithological research work directed to the conservation of the bird and animal life of the continent.

Migratory Birds.—The National Parks Bureau of the Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, and the Fish and Wild-life Service of the United States Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., are co-operating fully in the study of wild-bird migration routes and fly-ways, increase and decrease in numbers, concentration points, mortality rate, percentage of the take of game birds by hunters, longevity, and other problems related to the conservation of wild birds as a natural resource of great economic importance in North America.

These and other problems involved in bird conservation cannot be completely solved without the aid of certain precise data that can be obtained only by bird banding.

In Canada, the National Parks Bureau, which records and makes use of all data being accumulated in this way, has the voluntary co-operation of some two hundred ornithologists and conservationists who are marking hundreds of thousands of native wild birds with official bands, and this activity is yielding a great deal of new and useful information.

In addition to acting as a clearing house for Canadian banding records, the Division's staff does considerable banding in the field and has co-operated with research workers in the United States in a study of migrations of the Herring Gull by the use of coloured bands.