

Section 4.—Wildlife Resources and Conservation*

The Canadian Wildlife Service.—The Canadian Wildlife Service of the Development Services Branch, Department of Resources and Development, is responsible for attending to wildlife matters coming within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government of Canada, except those within the purview of the National Museum and certain activities closely related to Indian Affairs.

Its functions include conservation and management of wildlife in the North-west Territories; advising and co-operating with the National Parks and Historic Sites Division regarding fish and wildlife problems in the National Parks of Canada; and administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act (in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and in co-operation with the provincial game authorities), the Northwest Game Ordinance and the Fur Export Ordinance (North-west Territories). The Canadian Wildlife Service also handles national and international problems relating to Canada's wildlife resources, and co-operates with governmental and other agencies having similar interests and problems in Canada and elsewhere.

The Service issues permits for bird-banding in Canada, and is the Canadian clearing-house for bird-banding information. It issues permits to qualified persons to take migratory birds for scientific purposes. It also issues permits to take and possess migratory birds for propagating purposes; to collect eiderdown; to use fire-arms or other equipment for the control of migratory birds causing damage to agricultural, fishing or other interests; and to engage in the business of taxidermy.

The Canadian Wildlife Service plans and carries out scientific investigations concerning numbers, food, shelter, migration, reproduction, diseases, parasites, predators, competitors and uses of wild creatures in Canada. In certain of such investigations, e.g., the mid-winter waterfowl inventory, it works in close co-operation with United States authorities conducting parallel studies.

The Service is responsible for establishment and administration of bird sanctuaries under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. On Dec. 31, 1949, there were 76 of these sanctuaries, with a total area of 1,800 square miles.

The Limnology Section of the Service concerns itself with the maintenance and improvement of sport fishing, the control of aquatic and semi-aquatic insects, the control of algæ, and other biological problems that arise in regard to water areas in the National Parks. It also acts in an advisory capacity to the Northern Territorial Administrations in connection with aquatic biological matters.

MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTION IN CANADA

Canada includes within its borders a great variety of climatic and geographical conditions suitable for wildlife habitat in the temperate and frigid zones. Consequently, when first discovered by European explorers, Canada exhibited a remarkable variety and richness of bird and animal life adapted to these diverse conditions. The profusion of wildlife was in those early days practically unaffected by the primitive hunting methods of the aboriginal inhabitants, whose food and clothing requirements were largely supplied by the products of the chase.

The progress of exploration and colonization, radiating from small coastal settlements begun in the 17th century, made tremendous inroads on the wildlife resources of Canada. Wild animals and birds were driven out of wide areas by forest-clearing and cultivation of the soil. The process was accelerated during the

* Prepared under the direction of Dr. H. L. Keenleyside, Deputy Minister, Department of Resources and Development, in the Canadian Wildlife Service.