

Ducks and geese, which assemble on migration in these remote and sparsely populated areas, required special measures for their protection when the construction of a railway from southern Ontario to James Bay and the increasing use of aircraft led to intensive hunting there. The three large sanctuaries mentioned have proved to be of inestimable value in maintaining the stock of these game birds.

On rare occasions, it may be advisable to cancel a bird sanctuary but, in the main, sanctuaries are permanent. An example of a cause for cancellation is the drying up of a marsh area formerly used by waterfowl for nesting or breeding. Cancellation of the sanctuary would then free the area for agricultural or other purposes. Such cancellations have occurred on a few occasions but only after the most careful investigation has proved that the value of the area as a bird sanctuary has been permanently impaired.

On Dec. 31, 1949, there were in Canada 76 bird sanctuaries controlled by the Government of Canada under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, scattered over the country from Atlantic to Pacific and occupying a total area of about 1,800 square miles. This area may appear small in relation to Canada's total area of nearly 4,000,000 square miles, but it must be borne in mind that the majority of migratory birds are given absolute protection at all times and in all parts of the country, and that hunting is prohibited in national and provincial parks, provincial game preserves and sanctuaries, and other restricted areas, while hundreds of thousands of square miles in the Northwest Territories are so thinly populated that within them wildlife suffers little molestation.

The special protection afforded by Canadian migratory bird sanctuaries, many of which are strategically located at selected points on the great migration routes and in favourable breeding areas, is and will continue to be an important factor in the preservation of wild bird life in North America.

PART VI.—CLIMATE, METEOROLOGY, ETC.

Section 1.—Climate

At pp. 41-62 of the 1948-49 edition of the Year Book there appears an up-to-date treatment of the Climate of Canada, Part I. Detailed tabulations for climatic factors covering a wide range of stations across Canada were published as Part II at pp. 35-70 of the 1950 Year Book. This material will not undergo revision for some time since the general characteristics of climate do not change rapidly and the tables were built up on the basis of long-term averages extending back in most cases for 50 years or more.

Table 1, p. 44, gives temperature and precipitation data for 35 representative stations in Canada.

Section 2.—Meteorology

See list at the front of this edition, under the heading "Climate and Meteorology", for special material published in previous editions of the Year Book.

Section 3.—Standard Time and Time Zones

Information regarding the general adoption of standard time zones and the divisions within Canada is given at pp. 72-73 of the 1950 Year Book.