

shall have all powers required to carry out obligations imposed by an external treaty on Canada or on any of its provinces. Consequently, while the provinces retain property in migratory birds within their borders, the adoption of laws to carry out the terms of the Migratory Birds Treaty is a federal responsibility. The provinces are not precluded from passing game laws which cover migratory birds, but such provincial laws, in so far as they apply to migratory birds, must be not less restrictive than federal laws on the same subject.

There is no difficulty in the practical application of the division of federal and provincial powers. Several provinces incorporate in their game laws the provisions of the federal migratory bird legislation. The game and fishery officers of all ten provinces are *ex officio* game officers under the Migratory Birds Convention Act, and enforce that Act and Regulations thereunder as well as the game and fishery laws of their own provinces.

The annual revision of the Migratory Bird Regulations is one of the important functions of the Canadian Wildlife Service. The main basis of this work is the knowledge of the continental waterfowl situation derived from the midwinter count and the summer surveys. Some items for revision may be under consideration for several months but the peak of the work is attained during June and July. As a rule, the revision is completed and the new Regulations are approved by Order in Council in July or early August, permitting announcement some weeks before the opening of the earliest waterfowl-hunting season in Canada.

In revising the Regulations, the Canadian Wildlife Service works in closest co-operation with game authorities of the provinces and territories. An annual conference of representatives of provincial and federal wildlife services is held at Ottawa, usually in June, by which time preliminary reports of the waterfowl situation are available. At this conference, free discussion of wildlife matters leads to agreement on many questions affecting the Regulations, or clarifies problems for future study. The conference does not frame amendments to the Regulations, but often passes resolutions on which amendments may be based.

By the month of July, a sufficient number of reports have been received from all parts of Canada to permit a comprehensive view of the waterfowl situation. The Canadian Wildlife Service is the focal point for receipt and analysis of this information and, because of the fact that provincial and federal wildlife services are agreed on the basic principles of conservation and co-operate in a spirit of mutual confidence, there is no undue delay in working out the necessary revisions to the Regulations. The recommendations of the individual provinces regarding dates of open seasons and bag and possession limits form the basis of corresponding provisions applying within their respective borders. The Regulations as a whole are concurred in by all the provinces and by federal legal authorities before being submitted to the Governor General in Council for approval.