

The Wildlife Conservation Division of the Department was established in 1958 to manage wildlife in such a way as to give hunters the ultimate in sport and at the same time keep wildlife populations in line with agricultural and forestry requirements. Also concerned with provincial wildlife is a four-member Cabinet Conservation Committee, which meets periodically to review, study and make plans regarding wildlife resources. The Wildlife Conservation Division conducts a biology section, patrols game and bird sanctuaries, aids in law enforcement, carries on a research program in all phases of wildlife and inland fisheries, and makes recommendations for seasons and bag limits of provincial wildlife. The wisdom of sound conservation laws and practices is accepted by most people without question and the opportunities that Nova Scotia offers the hunter and fisherman, year after year, are the result of sound management practices.

Of prime concern to Division biologists is the deer population. The white-tailed or Virginia deer was introduced to the province about the turn of the century and increased very rapidly. By 1954, the annual harvest had reached 47,000 but in subsequent years a gradual decline has resulted in bag limit cuts. It is the aim of the Division to provide a consistent harvest of well-conditioned deer through flexible regulating measures and the maintenance and improvement of winter deer range. The Division is also engaged in studying the beaver with a view to developing a formula that will enable the province to set seasons and bag limits on this lucrative fur bearing animal. Another problem that is receiving attention is the mystery of Nova Scotia's moose population. Despite the fact that the season has been closed since 1937, moose numbers have not materially increased.

The Wildlife Division is also endeavouring to retain Nova Scotia's migratory waterfowl populations and has recently encouraged law enforcement with beneficial results. There are now nine bird sanctuaries where wildfowl may rest and feed. The black duck is the most important and sought-after of the waterfowl species breeding in the province. Studies are being conducted on other game birds such as the ruffed grouse and the ring-necked pheasant. Pheasant shooting preserves are in operation in the province; in the 1959-60 season more than 15,000 pheasant chicks were hatched and released in the fields and valleys in co-operation with game associations.

The Division provides courses of instruction for junior guides in order to increase the number of competent professional guides which are required by law for non-resident hunters. After three years of training, these juniors are recommended for professional guide licences.

Nova Scotia's more than 20,000 sq. miles of forests and clearings hold over 6,000 lakes, rivers and streams. Fish to be found there include salmon, speckled, gray and brown and rainbow trout, small-mouthed black bass, white and yellow perch, landlocked salmon, pickerel and striped bass. Hundreds of thousands of trout and salmon have been put into the waters from rearing ponds and considerable work has been done on improving the rivers for the movement of migrating salmon. In addition, surveys are being conducted to determine fish population and the feeding habits of certain species.

*New Brunswick.*—In the Province of New Brunswick, the conservation and management of wildlife species is the responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Branch, Department of Lands and Mines. In 1893 the provincial authorities apparently realized the importance of the wildlife resources and the necessity of sound management when they established a Game Branch or Game Division within the Department of Lands and Mines under the supervision of a Game Commissioner.

The present Fish and Wildlife Branch, headed by a Director, is divided into four sections dealing with administration, enforcement, game management and fish management. The Branch administers the New Brunswick Game Act, advises the respective provincial officials of necessary additions and revisions in the game regulations, and gives advice and co-ordination to the field staff of the Department of Lands and Mines in connection with the enforcement of the Game Act in the province. It carries out investigations of the wildlife