

The province has set aside a number of large areas as fish and game reserves, together totalling 41,166 sq. miles. The names, locations and areas of these reserves are given on p. 39.

Ontario.—The wildlife resources of Ontario are administered by the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. The Branch operates under the authority of the Game and Fish Act, the Wolf and Bear Bounty Act, the Migratory Birds Convention Act (Canada), and the Game Export Act (Canada) and regulations made under each of these. The wildlife resources of the province, both fur and game species, are of considerable economic importance in that they provide income to trappers and to guides and other persons connected with the tourist industry and also provide recreation to residents and visitors. The annual harvest of game and fur in the province is substantial and is believed to be increasing steadily.

The Fish and Wildlife Branch has established a system for the trapping of fur bearing animals, designed to provide equitable and maximum harvests. There are 3,388 registered trapline areas on Crown lands and approximately 4,000 resident trappers operating on private lands. The harvests of these trappers include mainly muskrat and beaver. Most trappers are organized into Trappers' Councils or local Trappers' Associations; these are represented by the Ontario Trappers' Association which performs important services to the industry, particularly in marketing.

The hunting of game in Ontario has become an important recreation and game hunting regulations are in force, designed to permit the maximum recreational opportunity for harvesting the annual surpluses consistent with sound game management practices. In 1960, more than 21,000 non-residents purchased licences to hunt game in the province and some 500,000 resident licences were issued, producing altogether a provincial revenue of \$1,766,000.

Each year approximately 120,000 persons hunt deer in the province and, of those, 6,000 are non-residents. Deer numbers fluctuate in relation to weather conditions, especially in areas of marginal range, and the Department is engaged in a program of research and management of deer range in order to maintain habitat for these animals during the winter months. The hunting of moose is becoming increasingly popular. It is estimated that about 40,000 persons each year are interested in this sport, about 6,000 of them non-residents. Moose have long been abundant in northern Ontario and have recently become prevalent in the southern part of the province where a season has been established. In 1961, the black bear was declared a game animal and a season established. As for small game, each year about 400,000 hunters, particularly in southern Ontario, engage in a considerable amount of hunting for cottontail, jackrabbit, varying hare, squirrel, raccoon and fox.

Game birds are also fairly prevalent in Ontario. Pheasant hunting is confined to the southwestern areas and, although most of the hunting is provided by natural production, two provincial game farms propagate and distribute about 75,000 pheasant chicks, poults or adults annually. In some parts of the province, Hungarian partridge is abundant enough to provide excellent hunting during the early autumn and the ruffed grouse has a wide distribution; it is the main game bird species of northern Ontario and is hunted frequently in woodlots of southern Ontario. Other species, such as the ptarmigan, sharp-tailed grouse, spruce grouse and bobwhite quail, have limited distribution. Ducks and geese, woodcock and snipe are also important game species. It is estimated that 150,000 of the 400,000 small game hunters are also waterfowl hunters. The Department of Lands and Forests has a considerable interest in the development of areas for waterfowl production and harvest.

A system whereby the number of hunters shooting pheasant, rabbit and fox may be controlled is operative in the southern townships within the pheasant range. The townships may charge fees for hunting which provide revenue for conservation work. Much of the money collected is used in pheasant propagation programs. A number of tracts of