

through the province of North America's wild whooping cranes. Through the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History and publications of the Conservation Information Service, the Department of Natural Resources endeavours to promote public interest in the principles of conservation and resource utilization.

Poisoning control programs have been instituted to replace the bounty system as a means of controlling predators. The objective of the poisoning program is definitely not eradication of certain predatory species, but reduction of populations to more manageable levels. Most hawks and owls are now protected through the game regulations.

Research studies designed to improve management techniques are conducted by five wildlife ecologists employed by the Department of Natural Resources. The province contains 149 game preserves with a total area of approximately 14,000 sq. miles. Last Mountain Lake Bird Sanctuary, reputedly the first established in North America, is located in southern Saskatchewan. Provincial parks in the southern part of the province are utilized as game management areas to permit fuller recreational use by the public.

*Alberta.*—In Alberta, the management of bird and animal wildlife is a function of the Department of Lands and Forests. In 1961-62, this activity was the incumbency of five permanent wildlife biologists who were assisted in the conduct of their program by many district officers of the provincial Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Division. The field officers reported on the distribution, reproductive success, mortality, age and sex structures, and diseases and parasites of game birds and wild ungulate populations and assisted in the accumulation of data on other features of wildlife biology and ecology. Significant contributions to the understanding of ecology and population dynamics were also made by university students and staff at the Alberta Biological Station.

Conservation measures are considered to be synonymous with proper wildlife management. Under these terms of reference, many species of wildlife were intensively studied during the 1961-62 fiscal year. Research projects on blue grouse, ptarmigan, Merriam's turkey, ruffed grouse, pheasant, sharptail, waterfowl, muskrat, pronghorn antelope, elk, moose, whitetail deer, caribou, bison, Rocky Mountain goat and bighorn sheep were conducted with a view to obtaining more usable data on natality, mortality, population dynamics and other biological features. Range condition studies produced information that, when considered with wild ungulate densities, formed the reference level from which season lengths and recommended harvests were established. The prime objective of conservation is the maintenance of game numbers in a compatible position with the abilities of different ranges to support game animals, thus assuring the continuation of wildlife population levels.

*British Columbia.*—Control over the trapping of fur bearing animals in British Columbia has been in effect since 1926, when a registered trapline system was instituted covering all lands except private property, National Parks, Indian reserves, municipalities and certain other reserved areas. Under this system, trappers are granted exclusive rights over designated areas and are required to submit annual reports of their catch, such returns providing an accurate check of the fur taken from each district. Trapping on private property is permitted, provided the trapper secures a special firearms licence, which must be held by all trappers and entitles the holder to hunt all types of large and small game.

Fur bearers in the province include bear, badger, beaver, fisher, fox, lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, otter, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, weasel and wolverine. Wolf, coyote, cougar and bobcat are classed as predators and there is no closed season on them or on raccoon, skunk and wolverine. Seasons on black or brown bear are generally year round although closed seasons are in effect in certain areas. Foxes have become so numerous in certain parts of the province that they also may be considered as predators, and beavers are so prevalent in some areas that it is necessary to move them to other districts.

Beaver is the most important source of revenue, followed by mink and squirrel. However, the day of the professional trapper seems to be gone. Few people now make their living solely or even mainly through the trapping of fur bearing animals. On the