

include beaver, mink, marten, muskrat, otter, fisher and Arctic fox. Trapping of other foxes, lynx and weasel is permitted throughout the year in the whole province and wolves and wolverines may be trapped throughout the year in Labrador.

It is interesting to note that the mink population on the Island has developed from fur farm escapes and is therefore concentrated in the fur farm areas of Avalon Peninsula, Springdale and Corner Brook. The first mink trapping season was declared in 1958.

Nova Scotia.—Nova Scotia's wild fur bearers include beaver, muskrat, mink, otter, fox, raccoon and weasel and the trapping of these animals provides supplementary income for several thousand persons who harvest from \$100,000 to \$200,000 worth of wild furs each year. The value, of course, depends on the numbers of each fur species available and on fur prices, both being subject to marked variations from year to year.

The beaver, once almost extinct in the province, is now the most valuable fur bearer taken. A \$2 licence is required by residents to trap a limited number of beavers (five to ten) during the approximately six-week season beginning Nov. 1. No licence is required to trap other fur bearers, although a royalty must be paid to the province for each pelt exported. These animals may be taken between Nov. 1 and Dec. 14.

Beaver research is at present being carried on in Nova Scotia to increase knowledge of this valuable animal as a preparation for better management of its population. Behaviour, feeding, movement and reproduction studies are being conducted near the Tobecoatic Sanctuary in western Nova Scotia, in Cumberland County in the eastern part of the province and in an enclosed area in Queens County. In addition, data on size, age, parasites and diseases are collected from beaver carcasses taken by trappers in all parts of the province.

Several trappers' associations have been started throughout the province so that the men closest to the fur resource may have some say in its wise use and management. These groups can also assist in ensuring proper handling and marketing of the raw furs and in up-grading quality, thus commanding good market prices.

New Brunswick.—A fur management program is now under way in New Brunswick. The first investigation concerns the muskrat and is being conducted in the estuary of the St. John River, one of the better muskrat areas in the province. For many years an open season on muskrat has been held in the spring. Management investigation will soon be extended to the beaver. This animal was protected against trapping for about 20 years until the first open season was declared in 1946. As a result, the beaver has made a remarkable recovery and there has been an open season each year since 1951, the annual take averaging about 7,500 pelts. It is now thought that, if heavier trapping is not done, there will soon be cause for concern over beaver damage to farms and woodlots, highways and railways.

The trapping of fisher and marten was permitted during the 1964-65 trapping season. These animals are found mainly in the northern part of the province but their numbers appear to be increasing and they are gradually working their way southward. Mink and otter are not abundant but in the two-month fall trapping season the catches average from 1,500 to 2,000 and from 200 to 250, respectively. In 1963-64, 3,279 trapping licences were issued.

Provincial legislation enables quick changes to be made in trapping seasons; thus, the autumn benefit of available fur may be utilized by a trapper or a closed season established on any fur bearer showing signs of serious depletion in numbers. A summary of trapping laws, which includes information on how the different pelts should be handled to receive the best price, is available from the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Department of Lands and Mines.

Quebec.—The fur trade has been of considerable importance in Quebec since the beginning of New France and the province has remained in the forefront of fur producers. The principal native species, in order of importance, are beaver, mink, muskrat, hair-seal, otter, lynx and marten.