

Research continues on the effects of toxic chemicals on wildlife at various sites across the country. In Alberta, a study continues on the way in which herbicides alter the habitat on which wildlife depends. The results of field work on the relation between chemical contamination of the lower Great Lakes and the breeding success of fish-eating birds were published. Research began on the effects of differing habitat quality and chemical contamination on the reproductive success of common loons in eastern and northeastern Ontario.

Studies continued into the health of game and fur-bearing animals and rodents in northern Canada and into parasitism in these mammals as well as birds. Measures to control anthrax among bison in Wood Buffalo National Park and in the Northwest Territories were again implemented; no outbreaks occurred in 1974.

Under the interpretation program, the CWS operates four wildlife centres across Canada. Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre at Midland, Ont. interprets the Northern Hardwood Biotic Region; Cap Tourmente and Percé Wildlife Centres, both in Quebec, focus on the habitat of the greater snow geese and the natural and human history of the Atlantic gulf coast, respectively; and Creston Valley Wildlife Centre highlights the Columbia Biotic Region. In 1974 planning began for a centre, situated in Saskatchewan, which would focus on the Prairie Grassland Biotic Region.

Research on both the consumptive and non-consumptive use of the wildlife resource is a growing concern. The CWS has participated in several projects which will shed light on the role of wildlife in the social and economic spheres in Canada.

The CWS has been participating in the Canada Land Inventory which is a federal-provincial program to gather information on how land in the settled parts of Canada is being used, and how best it could be used for agriculture, forestry, recreation and wildlife.

#### 10.4.2 Provincial wildlife management

**Newfoundland.** The functions of the Newfoundland Wildlife Service are: to maintain all indigenous species from extinction; to provide other species where suitable unused habitat exists, bearing in mind the real and aesthetic values of wildlife that are important to man; to maintain all species in the greatest number possible, consistent with the habitat needs of the species and without serious conflict with the other resource needs; and, to provide and regulate the harvest surplus of wildlife populations.

The Wildlife Service manages big game almost solely through varying the hunting regulations based on population data gathered from field studies and hunter questionnaires as well as by transplanting caribou and moose to unoccupied range and controlling predators such as lynx around caribou calving grounds. Black bear, the only other big game species, has increased in numbers over the past six years and a trapping program is currently in progress to gain information on their distribution and movements. Research is also being conducted on the ecology and biology of small game species such as snowshoe and arctic hare, willow and rock ptarmigan and ruffed grouse. Waterfowl management is conducted by federal authorities.

The wild fur industry in Newfoundland, as elsewhere, has been characterized by short-term instability and a long-term decline. However, recent fur sales have set record prices and this suggests that the decline of the past decade may be temporarily halted. The number of trappers in the province is the same as 10 years ago and as a result of continued interest by trappers, research and management studies are being conducted on all fur bearers. Previously, beaver was the only fur bearer benefiting from a management program. Studies are continuing on the biology of the endangered Newfoundland pine marten. It is hoped that these studies will provide the information necessary to produce the management program required to ensure survival of the species.

**Prince Edward Island.** The Fish and Wildlife Division of the Environmental Control Commission has full or partial responsibility for research and management of all wildlife on Prince Edward Island. All non-migratory wildlife are the full responsibility of the province while the management responsibilities for fish and migratory birds are shared with the federal government. A prime responsibility is the continual monitoring of game populations to assist in setting seasons and bag limits. Attempts are being made to establish a viable population of pheasants by the introduction of new species and continued evaluation of their performance.