

and Game. The branch, operating under the Wildlife Conservation Act which is the legal basis for protecting fish and wildlife animal species, consists of five services. The Wildlife Management Service is responsible for the management of all wildlife and particularly of species of interest to hunters and fishermen. Biologists are assigned to nine districts and their work includes the collection of data on animal populations and habitats. The Wildlife Research Service conducts projects to improve the basic knowledge of fish and wildlife in order to help wildlife managers. The Fish Hatchery Service operates seven hatcheries, inspects commercial hatcheries and controls imports of eggs and salmonoids. The Conservation Service is responsible for enforcing fishing and hunting regulations and for informing the public of the scope and importance of such regulations. The Leasing Service of fishing and hunting rights deals with outfitters and private clubs.

Ontario. Wildlife management in Ontario is administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Objectives for this division are to provide and encourage a continuous supply of recreational and economic opportunities and to develop public awareness of relevant ecological principles. Within the division, the Wildlife Branch is responsible for wildlife management. Management functions are distributed between main office and eight regional and 49 district offices.

The deer herd in Ontario has experienced a decline during the past few decades, manifested by a southward retraction of about 200 miles (320 km) in the northern limit of the range of white-tailed deer and reduced deer populations throughout the remaining range. The primary cause of the decline has been the maturation of the forest following the reduction of logging and fires since the 1930s. Several severe winters were instrumental in reducing the deer herd to a size compatible with the reduced range quality. The management program has been aimed at increasing the amount of browse available in winter yards and maintaining suitable winter cover. Moose management is concentrated on production and harvest inventory and evaluation of the effects of various forest practices and conditions on moose range. The number of moose hunters has been increasing and more intensive management measures for moose are being formulated.

In upland game and waterfowl management, effort is directed to the maintenance and improvement of habitat since habitat determines the potential wildlife numbers. Management is carried out on areas under agreement between landowners and the province and on provincial wildlife areas. These areas have helped to increase opportunities for nature study and hunting in southern Ontario and some of them ensure preservation of the wetland habitats important to a great variety of wildlife, especially waterfowl. Waterfowl banding, production surveys and harvest inventory assist in developing waterfowl management programs.

The major effort in fur management is directed toward beaver, with aerial censuses of beaver colonies and specimen collections by trappers. Monthly summaries of all fur bearers taken by each trapper are prepared. The harvest of beaver, marten and fisher is controlled by quota. About three quarters of the fur harvested is auctioned through the Ontario Trappers' Association Fur Sales Service in North Bay. A concerted effort to develop more humane traps was started in 1973 in cooperation with the Ontario Trappers' Association. Workshops on humane trapping, pelt preparation, animal biology and management practices have continued to upgrade trappers' skills and knowledge.

Manitoba. The Manitoba Department of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services is responsible for programs designed to maximize the recreational and economic benefits of wildlife resources while preserving the ecological diversity of native species. Authority provided by provincial legislation (The Wildlife Act, the Predator Control Act and Regulations) allows for legal protection and management of the 26 mammal, 160 bird, five reptile and three amphibian species. The federal Migratory Birds Convention Act deals with the