

deer and reduced deer populations throughout the remaining range north of agricultural Southern Ontario. The primary cause of the decline has been growth of the forest following the reduction of logging and fires since the 1930s. Several severe winters reduced the deer herd to a size compatible with or below the carrying capacity of the range. The number of hunters has declined more slowly than the number of deer resulting in relatively more pressure on the remaining herd.

The management program has been aimed at increasing the amount of food available in the summer range and in winter yards, maintaining suitable winter cover, and reducing hunting pressure in problem areas.

Moose management is concentrated on population and harvest inventory and evaluation of the effects of various timber harvesting practices 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. Management is carried out on areas under agreement between landowners and the province and on provincial wildlife areas. These areas have helped increase opportunities for nature study and hunting in southern areas 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. Improved monitors of upland game abundance are being developed for management purposes.

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 co-operation with the trappers' association. Workshops on humane trapping, pelt preparation, animal biology and management practices have continued to upgrade trappers' skills and knowledge.

Manitoba. The Manitoba renewable resources and transportation services department 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 protection of migratory game birds, migratory insectivorous birds and other migratory birds.

Wildlife authorities manage wildlife, game bird, goose and fur-bearing animal refuges and 50 wildlife management areas. Distribution of hunting and trapping pressure by setting definite seasons and bag limits is one management tool used. A quota system is used for moose, elk and caribou. Wildlife habitat development projects were undertaken successfully in 1977.

A five-year federal-provincial program designed to revitalize Manitoba's primary wild fur industry became effective in April 1975. Returns to trappers for 1976-77 were a record high. In 1977 Grant's Lake managed hunting area continued in its fourth year of operation and for the third successive year a managed waterfowl hunt was held on private land within Oak Hammock managed hunting area.

Saskatchewan. The fisheries and wildlife branch of the tourism and renewable resources department administers and manages the province's wildlife resources. The legislative authority is provided through the Game and Fur Acts.

Wildlife management programs are aimed at maintaining and enhancing wildlife populations for 100,000 hunters and an even greater number of non-consumptive users. Because consumptive demands exceed the supply of most big game species, hunting has been restricted, and hunting licences allocated by a computer draw. A new moose management program is currently being tested in an attempt to alleviate some problems created by restricted seasons.