

ment within a reasonable time involves a high outlay of capital; this is a limiting factor in attracting newcomers to the industry.

In fox farming, pelt production increased by 37% to 53,998 in 1985 from 39,424 in 1984. The number of fox farms has been steadily increasing from 39 in 1971 to 938 in 1985. The increase in production continued a trend begun in the mid-1960s. Returns for ranches rose sharply during the 1970s as the market for all long-haired furs improved. Value per pelt reached a high of \$364.42 in 1978 but declined to \$126.68 in 1985.

Fur marketing. In 1985-86 exports of raw furs amounted to \$97.1 million, down from the 1984-85 value of \$101.7 million and up slightly from the 1983-84 value of \$96.8 million. Imports for 1985-86 totalled \$179.4 million, down from the total of \$200.4 million in 1984-85 and \$33.8 million more than the 1983-84 total of \$145.6 million.

The export of fur fashion garments on an important scale is a fairly new development on the Canadian fur scene. Historically, Canadian exports of furs have consisted mainly of undressed pelts from fur farms and the trapline. There are fairly definite limits to which this type of export can be developed. The production of wildlife pelts is relatively limited; it showed a decrease during 1984-85 of 7.3% below 1983-84.

In the fur manufacturing industry no such limits apply. Other factors, however, are present, principally import tariffs and competition from fur manufacturers in the importing countries. A high degree of efficiency in design and manufacture is required by Canada to compete, and there is a growing export group among Canadian fur manufacturers which is extending the horizons of this formerly domestic industry.

8.4 Wildlife

Original inhabitants of what is now Canada depended on wildlife for food and clothing and some still do in remote areas. Europeans brought development of the fur trade which to a large extent guided the course of exploration and settlement. When the country was being developed, a number of mammals and birds became seriously depleted or extinct. As settlement progressed, wildlife habitat was reduced by cutting and burning forests, polluting streams, by industrial and urban development, draining wetlands and building dams.

Today the arctic and alpine tundra, a major vegetational region, has begun to show serious effects of man-made changes. The adjacent sub-arctic and sub-alpine non-commercial forests have been affected principally by human travel and an increase in the number of forest fires. Arable lands,

originally forest or grassland, have completely changed but in some cases became more suitable for some forms of wildlife than the original wilderness.

Canada's varied and abundant wildlife includes most of the world's stock of woodland caribou, mountain sheep, wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines. Many factors cause fluctuations in wildlife numbers, and hunting seasons and bag limits are based to a great extent on annual population surveys and other scientific data.

Early attempts at wildlife conservation began in 1885, when Rocky Mountains Park (now Banff National Park) in Alberta was preserved in its natural state. In 1887 the continent's first bird sanctuary was started at Last Mountain Lake in Saskatchewan. In 1893 when wood bison faced extinction, laws were passed to protect them. In 1907 a nucleus herd of plains bison was established at Wainwright, Alta.

As a natural resource, wildlife in each province comes under the jurisdiction of the provincial government. The federal government is responsible for the protection and management of migratory birds and for wildlife on federal lands.

8.4.1 The Canadian Wildlife Service

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) began as an agency to administer the Migratory Birds Convention Act (1917). It was expanded in 1947 to meet the need for scientific research in wildlife management and is now part of the environmental conservation service of Environment Canada.

CWS conducts research in Northwest Territories and Yukon on polar bear populations and is conducting long-term studies of caribou in co-operative programs with the NWT wildlife service.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan, signed by the Minister of the Environment and the US Secretary of the Interior in 1986, focuses on the problem of maintaining and restoring waterfowl habitat on the continent. A joint venture is proposed to restore 1.5 million hectares of duck breeding habitat on the Canadian Prairies at a cost of \$1 billion over the next 15 years. The cost of this project will be shared, with 75% of the funds coming from American sources. Nesting and migration habitat in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence lowlands will also be protected at a cost of \$20 million.

A convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora was signed by Canada in July 1974, with the CWS designated the scientific and management authority for Canada. The Canada Wildlife Act (1973) provides the federal government and the CWS a legislative basis for joint federal-provincial management pro-