

grams. CWS has initiated a rare and endangered species program. Continuing studies on the wood bison, whooping crane and peregrine falcon are to be augmented with new projects on other species. An international agreement on the conservation of polar bears came into effect in 1976. Canada was the first of five signatories to ratify it. As administrator of the Migratory Birds Convention Act the CWS, in consultation with provincial wildlife agencies, recommends annual revisions of the regulations on open seasons, bag limits and hunting practices. The RCMP with CWS and provincial co-operation enforces the act and regulations.

Under a national program begun by CWS, more than 40 national wildlife areas exist across Canada and more are planned. A number of co-operative wildlife areas are managed jointly with the provinces. The land, its vegetation and the wildlife it supports are the main concerns. Over 80 key nesting areas for migratory birds, many privately owned, have been declared sanctuaries under the migratory bird sanctuary regulations; in these areas hunting is prohibited.

CWS conducts surveys of waterfowl hunters to obtain estimates of species taken and the kill of migratory game birds, of the national goose harvest, of crop damage and of waterfowl populations and habitat conditions in Western Canada, and a program to reduce hazards caused by birds flying near airports. Bird-banding provides information on migration and biology of birds, and is useful in waterfowl management. CWS headquarters in Ottawa keeps continental banding records and controls activities of banders.

Attention is given to species greatly reduced in number or in danger of extinction. For example, Canada and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding in April 1985 to ensure international co-ordination and co-operation in efforts to restore populations of the whooping crane. Canadian and US program coordinators were appointed and are members of recovery teams in both countries. Canadian and US recovery plans have been completed and approved. The world population of whooping cranes in the wild and captivity now numbers 180, up from the 45 which existed in 1963 when the present program began. The population breeding at Wood Buffalo National Park in the Northwest Territories now stands at 111. In 1986, 21 chicks successfully migrated to Texas, a number equal to the 21 birds that existed in the migratory flock in 1941.

Research continues on the effects of toxic chemicals on wildlife and the relation between chemical contamination of the lower Great Lakes

and the breeding success of fish-eating birds, the last under a Canada-United States Great Lakes water quality agreement. A co-operative program began with a number of Latin American countries to monitor and improve the wintering habitat of migratory birds.

Research continues on the impacts of long-range air pollution on wildlife designed to provide an understanding of the mechanisms and magnitude of the effects of acid precipitation on wildlife.

8.4.2 Provincial wildlife

A major function of provincial wildlife management is to protect wildlife from endangerment or extinction and to preserve the wildlife habitat, to maintain wildlife populations at optimal levels and to foster best use of the habitat by appropriate species. Provincial authorities promote public attitudes consistent with wildlife resources and management protection strategies, and regulate the use of wildlife by setting limits and closed seasons for hunting and fishing.

Inventories are taken by the provinces, as required, to monitor the population of game and non-game species. Education programs for hunters, trappers and fishermen encourage the wise use of resources.

The main goals of wildlife conservation in Newfoundland and Labrador are: to maintain the ecosystems upon which wildlife and people depend and to do so recognizing the values of the diversity and abundance of wildlife species and populations; and to provide for the humane and sustainable use of wildlife. The major species for which there are active research or management programs include: moose, caribou, black bear, lynx, pine marten, ptarmigan, piping plover, bald eagle and peregrine falcon. Other major game species are snowshoe and arctic hare, ruffed and spruce grouse. Major furbearers include beaver, red and arctic fox, lynx, pine marten, mink, muskrat, ermine, otter and wolf. Recent surveys indicate that the economic value of wildlife-related activities in the province is over \$73 million annually.

In Prince Edward Island, programs and activities in wildlife management are directed at the conservation and protection of fish and wildlife species for the benefit of the public. A recently signed 5-year agreement between the province and Wildlife Habitat Canada will result in the integrated management of a watershed to the benefit of fish and wildlife resources.

Emphasis in Nova Scotia is placed on maintaining and improving habitat for about 300 species of wildlife. Appropriate protective measures are being integrated into forest management planning to ensure protection of significant wildlife habitats