

Other activities include research on the socio-economic values of wildlife, efforts to solve the humane trapping issue and public awareness programs.

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.

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. Two five-year agreements have recently been signed by the province and Wildlife Habitat Canada; the first is resulting in the integrated management of a watershed to the benefit of fish and wildlife resources; the second is concerned with protection and enhancement of wetlands within the province. In addition, the province has recently been involved in a five-year agreement with Ducks Unlimited Canada for the development and management of wetlands. A federal/provincial agreement, effective until March 1993, is expected to strengthen co-operation in the management of the province's inland fisheries and their supporting habitats.

Emphasis in Nova Scotia is placed on maintaining the diversity of wildlife, and retaining and

improving habitat for more than 250 species. Appropriate protective measures are being integrated into forest management planning to ensure protection of significant wildlife habitats and the maintenance of the forest ecosystems. In addition, wetlands management efforts have recently been expanded.

In New Brunswick, wildlife programs are in place to manage wildlife populations (through harvest management) and habitats. Recent agreements with Wildlife Habitat Canada and Ducks Unlimited have contributed to expanded programs in wetlands and coastal habitat management — and habitat management on forested lands. Harvest management programs are in place for principal game species which include deer, moose, bear, grouse, snowshoe hare and furbearers. Recent problems with the deer population in northern New Brunswick led to a "bucks-only" regulation implemented in 1988 in two northern deer management zones. This was an interim measure as the province plans to move toward a selective harvest (antlerless permit system) program.

Objectives of wildlife management in Quebec are to maintain and improve wildlife through ecological balance and sound management of public hunting, fishing and trapping grounds. Research is carried out on the dynamics and habitats of the various species of wildlife, and citizen participation is encouraged in the conservation of wildlife and its environment. In the next few years, special attention will be given to wildlife habitat conservation.

The wildlife program, in Ontario, is being continually evolved in order to establish a well-balanced, integrated, and comprehensive program throughout the province. Active public participation in wildlife management programs is encouraged. Wildlife managers focus their efforts on three primary components of the resource: wildlife habitat; wildlife populations; and the consumptive and non-consumptive users of wildlife. The wildlife program is presently managing or participating in a trumpeter swan reintroduction program, a peregrine falcon release program, bald eagle surveys, and studies designed to facilitate effective management of the habitats of endangered, threatened and vulnerable species. In addition, wetlands throughout Southern Ontario are being evaluated and rated; significant wetlands are being acquired for special management. The fur management program is based on an area-specific licensing system for trappers, coupled with seasons determined by the primeness of pelts and quotas on the number of