

Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Wildlife Branch and the Commercial Fish and Fur Branch have responsibilities involving wildlife management. Recent decentralization has resulted in the distribution of management functions 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 in the northern limit of the range of white-tailed deer as well as by a reduction in deer populations throughout the remaining deer 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 series of 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 programs, effort is directed to the maintenance and improvement of habitat as it is habitat which determines the potential wildlife numbers. Management is carried out on areas under agreement between landowners and the province and on provincial wildlife areas. These two categories of wildlife management areas have helped to increase opportunities for nature study and hunting in southern Ontario where most of the land is privately owned. Certain of these areas also ensure preservation of the wetland habitats important to a great variety of wildlife, especially waterfowl. A program to re-establish a wild-breeding population of the giant Canada goose in southern Ontario is continuing and these birds are now to be seen in many areas. Waterfowl banding, production surveys and harvest inventory are carried out to assist in developing waterfowl management programs.

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

Manitoba. The Manitoba Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management is responsible for the management and conservation of the province's wildlife resources. Authority provided by provincial legislation (The Wildlife Act, and The Predator Control Act and Regulations) allows for legal protection and management of 25 mammals, 160 birds and two reptiles that occur in the province. The Federal Migratory Birds Convention Act deals with the protection of migratory game birds, migratory insectivorous birds and migratory non-game birds.

The Department is made up of five Divisions (Mines and Departmental Services, Environmental Management, Resources Management, Water Resources and Technical Services) each responsible for one or more aspects of wildlife research and management. Wildlife authorities manage over 50 game hunting areas; 40 trapping areas; 30 wildlife, game bird, goose and fur-bearing animal refuges; and 26 wildlife management areas. The setting of definite seasons and bag limits is one of the major management tools utilized to control hunting and trapping pressure. Considerable effort is also being directed toward wildlife habitat acquisition and development.

Two new wildlife management areas were established in 1973; Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area, and Cape Tatnam Wildlife Management Area which is the largest in the province and the first in Manitoba's extreme north. A plan for development and management of Delta Marsh was made in 1973. A federal-provincial committee for humane trapping was formed in 1973.

Saskatchewan. Management of the province's wildlife resource is administered by the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch of the Department of Tourism and Renewable Resources. Legislative authority is provided through The Game Act and The Fur Act. The objective of the