

because of the vastness of their habitat but also because of man's efforts to preserve them. There is evidence of concern about the preservation of wildlife by the early Canadians; there were game laws in force in the original provinces when all but a few thousand acres of land were still the patrimony of the Indians. In 1885 pioneer conservationists were instrumental in establishing Banff Park in Alberta, and in 1887 a bird sanctuary, the first on the Continent, was established at Last Mountain Lake in Saskatchewan. Concern to preserve Canada's wildlife heritage led to the complete protection of wood bison in 1893 and to the purchase and establishment of a nucleus herd of plains bison at Wainwright in Alberta in 1907. Thus was formed the basis of wildlife conservation efforts, which, for a long time, took the form of protection of certain species from destruction by man or predator. Better knowledge of nature's operations and recognition that many factors combine to cause fluctuation in wildlife numbers are now being reflected in scientifically based hunting seasons and limits. The science of animal numbers is new and sometimes runs counter to popular prejudice but it is well understood that any area will support only so many animals, and species that are highly productive must have a quick turnover. Consideration of wildlife must never be separated from consideration of its environment and if the environment is fully stocked the annual increment need only replace the losses. All extra is surplus, only part of which is taken by predators and part, if the animal is a game species, by man.

As a natural resource, wildlife within the provinces comes under the administration of the respective provincial governments; wildlife on federal lands and certain problems of national or international interest are the concern of the Federal Government.

The Canadian Wildlife Service.—The Canadian Wildlife Service deals with most wildlife problems coming within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. It was organized in 1947 to meet the growing need for scientific research in wildlife management and became a Branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in 1966. The Service conducts scientific research into wildlife problems in the Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory and the National Parks, advises the administrative agencies concerned on wildlife management, and co-operates in the application of such advice. It administers the Migratory Birds Convention Act, provides co-ordination and advice in connection with the administration of the Game Export Act in the provinces, deals with national and international problems relating to wildlife resources, and co-operates with other agencies having similar interests and problems in Canada and elsewhere.

The Migratory Birds Convention Act was passed in 1917 to give effect to the Migratory Birds Treaty signed at Washington in 1916. The Canadian Wildlife Service is responsible for recommending the annual revision of the Migratory Bird Regulations, which govern such matters as open seasons for migratory game birds and other hunting details, taking and possessing migratory birds for scientific or propagating purposes, eiderdown collecting, etc. The Act and Regulations thereunder are enforced by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and in both administration and enforcement co-operation is received from provincial authorities. There are 106 migratory bird sanctuaries in Canada, having a total area of 43,887 sq. miles. Bird banding provides valuable information on the migration of birds and their natural history and is especially useful in waterfowl management. Serially numbered bands supplied by the United States Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife are used in Canada as well as in the United States.

A national wildlife policy and program was tabled in the House of Commons in 1966 after comprehensive discussions with the provinces and citizens' conservation organizations. The new policy is designed to increase research programs, to bolster dwindling wildlife resources, to provide better information to serve all wildlife interests, and to improve the supply of professionally trained wildlife biologists. Many research projects under way were continued during 1966. These included the study, in co-operation with the governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and the Council of the Northwest Territories, of barren-ground caribou and of wolves that prey upon caribou. Human utilization is still