

Many Canadians make special trips to study wildlife. Even a tiny marmot is a fascinating animal for man to study



Photo: A Harvey

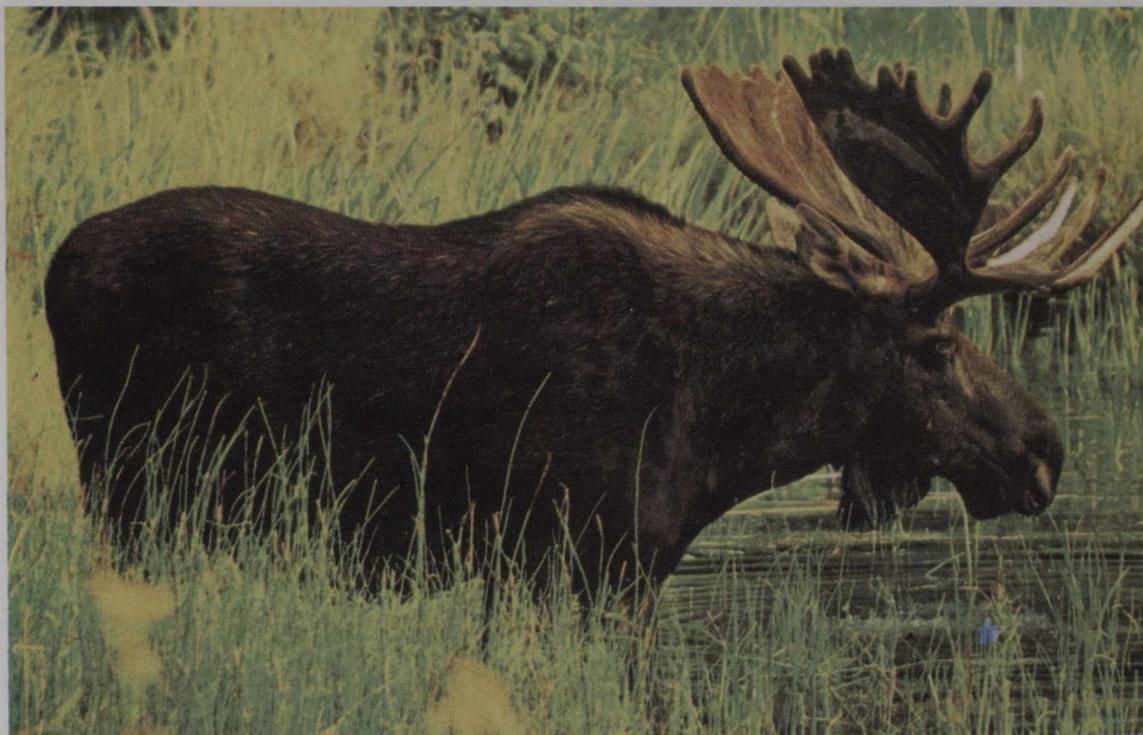
parks, aquariums, etc, and Canadians normally contribute more than £50 million annually to wildlife organisations.

The survey also found that 12.3 million Canadians take a lively interest in wildlife around their homes. Some eight million have encountered wildlife during trips and outings, and nearly all feel that these encounters increase their enjoyment significantly.

As many as one in five Canadians make special trips for the primary purpose of observing, photographing, feeding or studying wildlife, while 80 per cent attach importance to the maintenance of abundant wildlife, and 82 per cent believe that the preservation of endangered species is crucial.

The findings of the survey also show strong support for current policies and programmes to promote wildlife. ♣

Canada wins praise for environmental protection



Moose are found from coast to coast. They weigh up to 1800 lbs, and can eat 50-60 lbs of twigs and plants every day.

A tranquillised moose is airlifted to a base station in Ontario in an effort to restock the species in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Polar bears invade towns in Northern Manitoba where they are put into a compound prior to being transported by helicopter to a safe distance.

Whereas in some countries wild animals are regarded as a nuisance, in Canada they are regarded as important species. Incidents like these are indicative of Canada's commitment to the preservation of the natural environment — a policy which has drawn praise from United Nations officials.

Last April a global commission warned that growing environmental crises pose as great a threat to humanity as war does. But there are a few bright

spots on the horizon. Canada, for instance, has created a 17-strong National Task Force on the Environment and Economy to formulate a series of recommendations for new development policies within the country.

According to Noel Brown, Head of the UN Environment Programme for North America, Canada is the first country in the world to create such a task force of government, business and environment leaders and to deal with the recommendations of a UN report that development should not destroy the environment.

Brown has said that Canada's leaders have 'sent a signal to the world that one rich country is not afraid to think of sustainable development.' ♣