

with a surplus of some species as he is with the preservation of another threatened with extinction. Many species multiply so rapidly that overpopulation and control rather than protection may easily become a problem. Changes in habitat intensify this effect. The replacement of evergreen by deciduous forests in British Columbia enabled moose to multiply until their population exceeded the land's capacity to support them. Similarly, beaver flourish when forests are deciduous and decline when the evergreens become dominant.

With protection and suitable habitat, the beaver, for example, more than recovered from over-trapping and its population is probably greater now than at the height of the fur trade. About 1930, the eccentric naturalist Grey Owl started a beaver colony in Prince Albert National Park, Saskatchewan, with two animals, Jelly Roll and Rawhide; today, the park, which was almost empty of beaver in 1930, contains many thousands of the hard-working creatures — a population too large to be treated with indifference by park officers. Even in densely-populated urban areas beavers flourish. Within a short drive of Canada's

capital, there are so many beaver that several farmers make a respectable part-time income from trapping them for their pelts.

This ability of wildlife to recover quickly from losses and exploitation creates other problems for wildlife officers. Because most wild species are not easily observed, they can multiply rapidly before their increase is detected. Inventories must be repeated frequently in case significant population changes pass unnoticed.

Research is, of course, basic to any improvement in wildlife management. One relatively neglected area is the pathology and diseases of wildlife. Another is the effect of chemical-control agents such as insecticides. CWS investigators have found that fish-eating birds and raptors such as falcons are unable to reproduce adequately when certain persistent insecticides have been introduced into their environment; insecticides are also known to have adverse effects on fish reproduction. The responsibility for increased research will be that of the wildlife biologists; this handful of scientific investigators and advisers will have to be strengthened and given more public backing if they are to provide the sound factual basis for improved wildlife management programs.