

their own as far as the per-ton catch was concerned. The offshore fleet, if it continued at its present rate of building expansion, should reach more than satisfactory inventory levels in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Meagher said that over the next ten years it was likely that there would be no change in the figures for swordfish, scallops and whalemeat, but he said groundfish landings in his province should be about 560 million pounds, and herring reaching a figure of one billion pounds.

NUMBER OF HAWKS DECLINING

A significant decline in three species of hawk — the peregrine falcon, the bald eagle and the osprey — has been observed in Eastern North America during the past ten years, according to Allan Wainio, a biologist with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forest. The marsh hawk also is reported to be declining in numbers.

Insecticides have commonly been blamed for the decline, Mr. Wainio pointed out; the evidence was admittedly circumstantial, he said, but a drastic decrease in the population of these species had occurred at the same time a great increase in the use of insecticides had taken place, and in the same areas. It had been found that, for several species of game birds, one-fifth of the lethal dose of DDT caused a serious drop in fertility.

CAUSES OF DECLINE

There appear, in Mr. Wainio's view, to be two reasons why the decrease in hawks should be more noticeable than in other birds. First, birds of prey have one of the slowest rates of reproduction among birds; secondly, those that eat carrion killed by pesticides, or live prey that has been fed on food sprayed with DDT, accumulate a serious dose of poison. Recently, he pointed out, a British conference dealing with this problem concluded that insecticides had killed off more hawks than a century of game-keepers and egg collectors.

This situation, according to Mr. Wainio, did not mean that the use of insecticides should be abandoned but that they should be used more cautiously, especially when starting to "fog" or "blanket" areas with DDT.

ESKIMO TRAPPERS LEARN TO GRADE FUR

Fifteen Eskimo trappers from Eastern Arctic settlements flew into Churchill, Manitoba, recently to attend a three-week course sponsored by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources in fur grading and co-operative development. "Fur is still an important source of income for many Eskimo families," said Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing. "A knowledge of grading and handling will bring added revenue to Eskimo co-operatives and to the trappers themselves."

In remote settlements, a member of the local Eskimo co-operative buys furs direct from the trappers. Too often he simply pays a flat rate of \$8 for pelts

that may sell at fur auctions in the South for from \$2 to \$20. A basic understanding of fur-grading will guarantee fairer prices to the trappers and to the co-operatives from sale in Southern Canada.

Eskimos taking the course were chosen by their local co-operatives. They come from as far away as Grise Fjord, 4,000 air miles north of Montreal. Three speak English; others will receive instruction through two Eskimo interpreters. The talks on co-operative operation and a book on the subject of fur have been translated into Eskimo syllabics.

The average annual value of furs produced in the Canadian Arctic is \$600,000, a figure that could increase with improved methods in handling and trapping. Furs of high quality can be damaged beyond repair by grease and stain; trappers will be warned not to set traps until the white fox pelt is fully prime with a dense white under-fur and a complete covering of guardhair, as furs that are not prime have little value. Three hundred and fifty white-fox pelts and a number of seal skins will be used in the fur-grading courses.

Twenty Eskimo co-operatives are now active in Arctic communities, eight of which barter furs for merchandise. The remainder buy furs for handicrafts, as well as for re-sale at the fur auctions in the South.

A similar course in fur-grading and co-operative operation was sponsored in Yellowknife last year by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

U.S. GUIDELINES DISCUSSED

Mr. Robert H. Winters, Minister of Trade and Commerce, met recently with the heads of a number of Canadian firms that are subsidiaries of United States companies, to discuss to what extent the application of the United States balance-of-payments guidelines by the parent companies might affect the business decisions of the Canadian firms, particularly regarding purchasing policy, exports and imports.

The discussion revealed no evidence that, to date, the application of the guidelines by U.S. parents of Canadian companies had impinged on the normal patterns of procurement and trade of the Canadian companies. The Minister made it clear that, as a matter of good business practice and good Canadian corporate behaviour, he expected that, Canadian companies, owned or controlled by foreign companies or not, would look to Canadian sources of supply whenever it was economic to do so and when their needs could be met here on a fully competitive basis in price and quality and sound purchasing policy.

The Minister reminded the meeting of Canada's large current-account deficit with the United States, and stressed the importance of maximum export performance by all Canadian companies.

Arrangements are being made to keep the possible effect of the guidelines on Canadian companies under continuing review to guard against any improper influence on the export opportunities or procurement practices of companies incorporated in Canada.