

### WILDLIFE SERVICE PROGRAMME

Field operations of the Canadian Wildlife Service are taking its scientists into every part of Canada, the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources has announced.

One of the important annual operations being carried out is the survey of waterfowl populations, which is conducted in co-operation with provincial game departments, the United States Fish and Wildlife Services, and other interests. Breeding populations and breeding success are studied in the spring and summer, and an attempt is made to estimate the size of the autumn flight. This information is used in the annual revision of bag limits and closed seasons under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Hunting pressures, crippling losses, and age ratios are recorded in the autumn, and in mid-winter another inventory is conducted.

Related special investigations are being made in most regions of conditions affecting such species as mallard, pintain, lesser scaup, black brant, and greater snow geese.

Damage to grain crops by ducks is the subject of a continuing investigation in co-operation with the Prairie Provinces, the Federal Department of Agriculture and other agencies. Four wildlife officers will be engaged in this year's programme. The very important task of banding, by which data on distribution, migration, mortality, and longevity of waterfowl can be obtained, is being continued in all parts of Canada. Under study also are eider populations in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of Eastern Canada; the relationship between mergansers and salmon on the Atlantic coast; woodcock and Wilson's snipe populations in Eastern Canada; murre and other seabirds which form immense colonies in coastal Newfoundland; and such rare birds and threatened species as the whooping crane, trumpeter swan, and Ross's goose.

Canada's 98 migratory bird sanctuaries should become better known this year, with the erection of special road signs to identify their location and explain their purpose.

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Life and living creatures in the fresh waters of the National Parks, and in particular the management of the fish populations of the parks, are being studied by the Wildlife Service. Lakes and streams are being examined and game fish populations assessed in Newfoundland's Terra Nova Park. Trout plantings, control of aquatic vegetation and black flies, and reclamation of lakes and eradication of undesirable species of fish are being studied in other eastern national parks. Similar investigations are being carried on in the prairie and mountain parks.

### WILD ANIMAL STUDIES

Wild animal studies in the national parks and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories will include the fluctuating muskrat population on the Old Crow Flats in the Yukon, the numbers of Dall sheep, Stone's caribou, grizzly bear and mountain goat, and the effectiveness of control measures on the numbers of predators on big game ranges.

Fur-bearing and game animals in the Northwest Territories under study will include muskrats in the Mackenzie Delta, beaver in the Mackenzie District, squirrel, mink and moose in the southern Mackenzie, barren-ground caribou in the central tundra regions, Stone's caribou in the mountains west of Aklavik, the buffalo herds in Wood Buffalo Park, wolves within the barren-ground caribou range, white fox and polar bear in the Eastern Arctic, and caribou on Coats and Baffin Islands and in Keewatin District.

The growing beaver populations in western national parks will be studied as well as range conditions and other factors affecting the numbers and distribution of elk, moose, deer, sheep, mountain goats and other wild animals. Muskrats in the marshes of Point Pelee National Park, the management of game animals in other eastern parks, and the third year stage of the co-operative investigation of the caribou of Newfoundland are also on this year's programme.