



Site of Klwane National Park. The extensive icefields of the St. Elias Mountains form one of the world's largest non-polar glacier systems. Backdrop to this great expanse of snow and ice is Mount Logan, at 19,850 feet Canada's highest peak.

swallow and song sparrow may represent new nesting range extensions.

The earliest inhabitants of the region may have been Asiatics lured across the Bering Strait by the abundance of fish and game. Two Athapaskan tribes, whose linguistic kinship with the peoples of eastern Asia can still be discerned, lived a nomadic existence there as late as the eighteenth century. These were the slave Indians and the Nahanni — meaning “people over there far away”.

#### BAFFIN ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

The Baffin Island area (8,200 square miles), located mainly north and west of Pangnirtung Pass in the Cumberland Peninsula of Baffin Island, is the first national park lying above the Arctic Circle. The area is noted for its spectacular fjords and deeply carved mountains dominated by the massive Penny Icecap. Mountains reach 7,000 feet and the Pangnirtung Pass, 60 miles long and often a mile deep, is ice-free.

Baffin Island was a site of the Thule Eskimo culture which existed in the North 1,000 years ago. The ruins of several communities in the area of the Cumberland Sound have been discovered by archaeo-

logists. Today there are two Eskimo settlements near the park, one at Pangnirtung, at the mouth of the Pangnirtung Fjord, and the other on Broughton Island off the northwest coast of the peninsula.

Whale, narwhal, seal and walrus frequent the waters of the fjords. Terrestrial mammals include polar bear, Arctic fox and barren-ground caribou. Polar bear, Atlantic walrus and blue, humpback, and right whale are considered endangered species.

Canada goose and snowy owl are among the 40 species of bird that nest in the area. Rare species such as gyr falcon and whistling swan are also found.

Commenting on the new parks and looking ahead, Mr. Chrétien said: “Since 1968 we have created ten new national parks for the people of Canada. There has never been an expansion comparable to that of the last four years. We now have the framework of an outstanding national system — but we must not stop here. There is much more to be done if we are to protect our natural heritage. We have 28 parks now and we need at least 60 by the year 2000. We are in a race against time.”

See maps of Canada's three new national parks, Page 6.