

## CANADA-U.S. WILDFOWL CONTROL

Canada and the United States have agreed to put more emphasis on maintaining continental waterfowl populations at relatively steady levels, not only for the benefit of hunters but also for that large part of the public that appreciates the beauty of wildlife and is concerned with the careful management of natural resources.

The announcement is contained in the third report of the International Technical Meetings on Migratory Birds released recently by Mr. Arthur Laing, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, which expresses concern about the decline in waterfowl populations resulting from loss of habitat, and says that the problems involved can be solved only if governments at all levels work together with naturalists and hunters.

Progress is being made in research and habitat maintenance. Wetlands are being secured by easement and outright purchase in Canada and the United States to preserve the different habitats required for breeding, migration and wintering.

### GATHERING INFORMATION

Waterfowl managers in both countries are obtaining more of the information they need on nesting success and harvest to enable them to formulate hunting regulations that will preserve adequate breeding populations of various species. Information about the annual harvest of migratory birds by hunters in both countries is being sought by mail questionnaire.

In Canada, such information has been made

possible by the introduction in 1966 of the federal migratory game-bird hunting permit and by surveys that determine how many birds of each species were harvested. Estimates are based on duck-wings and goose-tails submitted by a sample of hunters.

New laboratories have been constructed in both countries, including the Canadian Wildlife Service Prairie Migratory Bird Research Centre on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon.

### MIGRATORY BIRDS LEGISLATION

To ensure effective managements of a resource that knows no political boundaries, Canada and the United States signed the Migratory Birds Convention Act in 1916. The International Technical Meetings on Migratory Birds are held periodically to examine current problems and recommend courses of action. They are attended by senior officials representing departments of both governments directly concerned with the conservation and management of migratory birds. The most important migratory-bird problems concern waterfowl, which are hunted in season in both countries.

The fluctuations in the continental supply of ducks are related to cyclical water conditions in the southern Prairie Provinces, where about two-thirds of the ducks harvested in North America are produced. Superimposed on the cyclic water regime is a continuing loss of breeding habitat resulting from the drainage of wetlands for agricultural and other purposes.

### HIGH-SEAS TELEPHONE SERVICE

A new long-distance telephone service connecting ships on the high seas and in coastal waters with any place in Canada was announced recently by Transport Minister Paul Hellyer. The Department of Transport now has radio facilities at Halifax and Vancouver for the provision of long-range radio-telephone service to ships at sea.

The service, known as the Canadian high-seas telephone service, provides voice communication with vessels operating at great distances from the mainland and in coastal waters. It now is possible for a person on board ship anywhere in the North Atlantic or North Pacific to speak with anyone ashore as in ordinary long-distance telephone calls.

The new service can be used almost as easily as regular land-telephone service. The caller asks the operator to be connected with the marine operator, asks for high-seas service and gives the name of the person and ship being called, whether the call is to be collect, the name of the city and the telephone number from which the call is being made.

Charges are included in the regular telephone bill. A special feature is that charges are based on a zone system, with standard charges for each of four zones, rather than on regular long-distance rates. In

Zone 1 are Newfoundland and the three Maritime Provinces; Zone 2, Ontario, Quebec, Labrador and the Northwest Territories; in Zone 3, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Yukon Territory; in Zone 4, Alberta and British Columbia.

### NEW GOLD PUT ON FREE MARKET

The Department of Finance has announced the conclusion by the Master of the Royal Canadian Mint of the Mint's first sale of newly-produced gold into the free market. A total of approximately 80,000 fine ounces has been sold as the result of an invitation to bid made to a number of recognized dealers in gold. Further sales will be made from time to time. The gold is being sold at a premium over the price on the free market in London, England.

The Government's policy of selling in the free market the gold the Mint purchases from Canadian producers was announced by the Minister of Finance on April 3. This policy does not, of course, apply to gold that is held as part of Canada's official foreign-exchange reserves.

No change is involved in the arrangements affecting producing gold-mines in Canada. Producers may sell in the free market if they wish. Producers who wish to qualify for assistance under the Emer-