

"The Riding" is on the borders of the Mississippi and Central "flyways", and no park in the system has a more fascinating variety of birdlife, or birds that are less troubled by the presence of man.

Ontario has three national parks. The most northerly is Georgian Bay Islands, a group of 42 wooded islands in the Bay's popular resort area. The second is Point Pelee and the third lies in the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River, where part of the mainland and several islands have been set aside as a national park. These smaller wooded parks, set against the background of sparkling water and the wide sweep of the St. Lawrence River, are among the most popular in the system. True to regional topography, unlike the mountain or the prairie parks or the salty Atlantic coastlines, Ontario's three national parks, less than 12 square miles in area, are another illustration of the sharp contrasts in landscape between the different regions of Canada.

The mixture of seascapes, rocky coasts and shores teeming with marine life, and forested inland areas, provides splendid park potential, and it is not surprising to find four national parks in the Atlantic Provinces, one in each province.

Terra Nova National Park looks out on Bonavista Bay on the east coast of Newfoundland from gently rolling forested barrens. Cape Breton Highlands National Park occupies almost the whole northern tip of Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, a rugged plateau that drops steeply to the sea. Fundy National Park is located on the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick; part of its great popularity with visitors comes from its excellent recreational facilities, which include the New Brunswick School of Arts and Crafts.

Next to Banff, the most visited national park is Prince Edward Island National Park, where more than a million people a year come to relax on 25 miles of wide sandy beach and to swim in salt water warmed by the Gulf Stream.

Kejimikujik is Canada's newest national park. It is a 148-square-mile tract of land typical of the inland beauty of Nova Scotia. With a large lake as its focal point, the surrounding area is covered by foliage of many shades of green which burst into a rainbow of colour with the coming of autumn.

#### Selection of Sites

Since the national parks offer such contrasts in size and natural features, what criteria are used in selecting an area for development?

A prospective park must, first, be free of other types of development and be representative of the finest scenery in a region. It must contain fauna and flora native to the area, so that visitors studying the park a century hence will be able to see a complete cross-section of the life that flourished in this part of Canada before man interfered.