

Outside the national parks, the legislative responsibility for wildlife rests with the provincial and territorial governments, which enact, administer and enforce laws and regulations respecting hunting, trapping and other activities that affect wild animals. There is one exception — the responsibility of the Federal Government for migratory birds.

Migratory Birds Treaty

The Migratory Birds Treaty of 1916 between Canada and the United States was intended to provide more effective protection for migratory birds than was possible under unco-ordinated provincial and state laws or under the laws of either country. The treaty lists groups of migratory birds protected by both countries. Both non-game and insect-eating birds are protected completely; game birds are safeguarded by hunting regulations that are revised each year.

Under the treaty, the federal governments of Canada and the United States, after consultation with the states and provinces, set bag, possession and season limits. Within the federal framework, the states and provinces may add other restrictions on waterfowl hunting if they wish. The prohibition of hunting on Sunday is an example of a provincial regulation found in some but not all, provinces. The migratory birds regulations are enforced in Canada by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Canadian Wildlife Service, originally formed to administer the Migratory Birds Convention Act passed in 1917, now also carries out both wildlife research and management. As a branch of the Department of the Environment, it has federal responsibility for wildlife. Besides its work with migratory birds, the CWS conducts scientific research into wildlife problems in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon and in the national parks, and also co-operates with administrative agencies when wildlife management programs are instituted.

As a result, the Wildlife Service acquires and distributes much information useful to managers of the wildlife resource. Research findings are made available in a number of publications, including monographs on individual wildlife subjects, reports and papers on individual projects, and notes containing interim data. Pamphlets on topics of interest to persons concerned about the wildlife around them are issued as the need arises or demand dictates. The Service has sponsored a number of feature films on wildlife, and has produced a series of short television clips on species native to Canada. These clips are keyed to a popular publication series entitled *Hinterland Who's Who*, for which there are over 100,000 requests annually.