

Another species in some danger is the Ipswich sparrow. This tiny bird breeds only on Sable Island off the coast of Nova Scotia. That it has the drive to survive cannot be doubted. Its habitat is often fog-enshrouded, but the tiny bird has always found its way through wind, storm and fog to its nesting ground. Man introduced rabbits to Sable Island and they depleted the vegetation. Man then introduced cats which depleted the rabbits – and the sparrows. Man introduced foxes which, in one season, obliterated both the cats and the rabbits. The sparrow survived them all. Now the bird faces two dangers: oil-drilling on Sable Island and, gradual erosion of the island itself. The Canadian Wildlife Service has contracted with a biologist to study the species and we hope that in the future the bird's persistence will not have been in vain.

There is a whole group of birds which is in danger in Canada; the birds of prey. All hawks, eagles and owls are endangered because they are flesh eaters and are accumulating pesticide residues which have been picked up by their prey. The eastern race of peregrine falcons is now probably extinct. Here the Wildlife Service is attempting to do what it can. We have three full-time biologists and several contractors studying the effects of pesticide residues on bird population....

ANIMALS IN JEOPARDY

The great plains wolf is now extinct in Canada. The northern kit fox is now extinct in Canada. The black-footed ferret, the big plains grizzly bear – and the prairie dog (which is really a squirrel) survives in only a few "dog towns" in southwestern Saskatchewan. The rest are extinct in Canada, or at least so extremely rare that they are, for practical purposes, extinct.

All these animals were once abundant on the wide prairie. As man depleted the buffalo herds, ploughed the fields and settled the region, the environment became unsuitable for them all. There are still some of each of these animals in other parts of North America.

If we had a national park which represented the prairie grassland as it once was, we could at least try to settle pairs of these species in it and make an attempt to preserve and perpetuate them in Canada. As you know, it is the Government's policy that the land for national parks should be acquired by the provinces and turned over to the Federal Government to hold in trust for future Canadians as well as for the use and enjoyment of all of us today. We have been negotiating with the provinces for more national parkland which is urgently needed to keep pace with the growing usage the parks are experiencing. It is my hope that we shall see the day when refuges for these endangered species will be set up so that future generations of Canadians won't have to say "What went wrong?"...

...I have a deep and profound conviction that out of all the material wealth we are taking from the earth we must surely have an obligation to put something back. We must surely have an obligation to the species whose habitat we are destroying. In any

event I can only say that a world without other species than man would be a lonely world for man.

PUBLIC OBLIGATION

The extent of this obligation may be a personal value judgment which each of us must make. The extent of the public obligation – the obligation of government and industry – must be related to a scale of priorities. I cannot, in justice, recommend to my colleagues the expenditure of federal money for additional national park acquisitions at this time, when there are so many demands upon the federal purse. I can, however, recommend the expenditure of development and maintenance money, if the provinces will supply the land from their reserve of Crown land and acquire the necessary additional tracts to make a proper national park. I would like to think that some of the industrial corporations, whose wealth stems from the development and use of nature's bounty would feel that they could make a contribution in this cause. Many companies own land which they could put into the national parks system. Where such land is adjacent to a tract of provincially-owned land which the province might be willing to place in trust for the people of Canada such a grant might make a park possible....

There was a recent suggestion about adding to the parks system by establishing national heritage parks on a joint federal-provincial basis. I have asked my officials to investigate the proposal and to report to me on its feasibility.

...I am hopeful that we can establish a National Nature Trust to receive land donated by individuals and corporations for the specific purpose of providing habitat for wildlife. There are, I am sure many Canadians willing to make tracts of land available for this purpose, and for birds especially, relatively small tracts can be extremely useful.

INDIAN AND ESKIMO RIGHTS

In the management of our wildlife resource, we face other problems than that of changing environment, although it is by far the most serious at this time. One of the unresolved difficulties is that of hunting rights for the Indian and Eskimo people. There is a conflict between the treaty obligations entered into by the Government of Canada with the Indian people and the Migratory Bird Protection Act. When the Act was passed in 1917, the legislators of the day gave insufficient thought to the position of the treaty obligations, and today we face bitter complaints from Indian and Eskimo people.

From the point of view of the Indians, of course, the thing is pretty simple. There was never any need for conservation laws in pre-Columbian times. The Indians weren't the ones who eliminated the passenger pigeon and the Eskimo curlew. That was the work of the newcomers. Now we are telling them that they can no longer use their ancient resource of game for their family's food.

There are rights and wrongs on both sides. Hunting birds out of season is dangerous business. With the environmental threat to future bird population, we cannot afford to have birds taken during