

Canada's wildlife is far from a passing phenomenon, a resource that had only temporary value during earlier stages of economic and social progress. In contemporary life the creatures of air, field, forest and stream are a vital natural resource, as worthy of being managed scientifically and administered wisely as of being preserved humanely. Conservation in the modern wildlife context is a combination of scientific research and practical management based on informed public support and co-operation. It calls for close teamwork between conservation officer, scientist, administrator and particularly the citizen, who has a responsible position on the conservation team.

The Canadian Wildlife Service carries out both wildlife research and management. As a branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, it is entrusted with federal responsibilities for wildlife, a renewable resource of ever-increasing importance to the national welfare and economy.

Each province has control over the natural resources within its boundaries, including wildlife. However, because Canada signed the Migratory Birds Treaty with the United States in 1916, there is a federal responsibility for the management and protection of migratory birds. The Canadian Wildlife Service administers the Act for the Federal Government. In practice, federal and provincial governments co-operate in all matters concerning migratory birds. The Canadian Wildlife Service studies migratory birds throughout Canada and conducts scientific research into other wildlife problems in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon Territory, and Canada's national parks; it also co-operates with the administrative agencies concerned when wildlife-management programmes indicated by research are instituted.

The Wildlife Service staff includes mammalogists, ornithologists, limnologists, pathologists, a pesticide investigator and a biometrician.

The Service administers 94 migratory bird sanctuaries throughout Canada. These are largely for water-fowl that may be hunted elsewhere in season.

In 1966 a "National Wildlife Policy and Programme" was tabled in the House of Commons. Its purpose is to translate national concern about wildlife into guidelines for co-ordinated action by Canada and the provinces.

The policy and programme have been developed to meet needs expressed by conservationists and wildlife officials throughout Canada and in accordance with principles generally endorsed by the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers, the 1965 Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference, and the Prime Ministers' and Premiers' Conference in July 1965.