



H. Gritscher, *Animals Animals*

— as above. Their most remarkable achievements are in engineering. The first feature of a new colony is the dam. Sticks are laid parallel in the narrow part of a slow-moving stream, then plastered with stones, roots and mud. The dam grows row on row until it is perhaps fifty yards long and six feet high. It forms a pond six to ten feet deep, enough to permit swimming under winter ice. Water spills over only at the centre. It is repaired frequently, primarily by the male. The lodge, in the middle of the pond or on the bank — six to nine feet high, ten to twenty feet in diameter and constructed on a base of sunken poles — may be occupied for many years. The centre chamber has a sloping floor of dry, shredded willow bark. A family usually has ten to twelve members — the adult pair, kits and yearlings of the previous year.

Heavy indiscriminate trapping had almost wiped the beaver out by 1930, but conservation management by northern Ontario Indians soon restored the population to abundance. They are now found all over Canada, south of the Arctic treeline, and are naturally absent only on Anticosti and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

THE TIMBER RATTLESNAKE *was once found in southern Ontario; it is now believed extinct in Canada. Its habit of congregating at winter den areas in spring and fall made it extremely vulnerable to slaughter. It is protected by the Ontario Endangered Species Act.*

Z. Leszczynski, *Animals Animals*



S. Grossman, *Woodfin Camp & Assoc.*

THE EASTERN PEREGRINE FALCON, *often called the duck hawk, has been almost wiped out by toxic pesticides which cause sterility. Formerly the falcon flourished from Mexico to Labrador and in every province and territory of Canada. It is now believed extinct through most of its former range. Fortunately, captive breeding programs are in operation, and some birds are being released into parts of the former range.*

A Few, Bold Words about Harp Seals

The harp seal flourishes as a long-lived species off Canada's east coast. Although it is extensively (and conspicuously) hunted each year, its numbers appear to be increasing. Canada, accepting the recommendations of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries has set a total allowable catch for 1977 of 170,000. This will not reduce herd numbers or endanger the species. It will prevent overexpansion, which could upset the present marine ecosystem, and permit the herd to grow, slowly, from about 1.2 million adults to 1.6 million.

The harvested seals are used for oil and food as well as fur. Seal flippers bring two dollars each in retail markets, and canneries buy over three hundred thousand pounds of seal meat annually.

The traditional harvesting method for both Northwest Atlantic seals and those taken under US government supervision on the Pribilof Islands off Alaska is clubbing. In recent years this method