

The economic value of Canada's wildlife resources in relation to other recreations such as photography, nature study, and casual sightseeing is difficult to estimate, but it probably exceeds that of fishing and hunting. For thousands of people it is a rare privilege to observe a wild animal or bird in its natural surroundings and preserve that memory on film. Interest in wildlife for its beauty and grace and novelty alone is growing and is a factor that cannot be dismissed in any assessment of wildlife's value to Canada's economy.

While recreation appears to be the major use for wildlife, many Canadians still rely directly on game for their livelihood and even for their existence. Fur-trapping is still an important occupation in Canada. In 1964-65, Canadian wild-fur sales totalled more than \$15.2 million. Many Eskimos and Indians earn their livelihood from fur-trapping and they need wildlife for food and clothing. Much of the economic and social difficulty that has been experienced by some groups of Eskimos stems directly from a decline in the number of caribou, which had provided meat for food, hides for warm clothing, and bone for implements.

Wildlife also controls insects and small mammals which damage crops. The coyote preys on the field-mouse and the extent of his control is only being properly appreciated now that he has been killed off in western agricultural areas by an extensive poisoning programme. Birds feed on a great many insects that harm agricultural production and damage and kill commercial timber stands and shade-trees.

The main objective of Canadians concerned with the future of wildlife is that it should be managed properly as a renewable natural resource of great value. As a natural resource it should not be regarded as a competitor of other resources for attention but as an integral part of the whole complex of natural resources that are of value and benefit to man. The relation between resources is a difficult subject to understand and man's attempts to put comparative artificial valuations on resources have complicated the subject further.

The "Resources for Tomorrow" Conference held in Montreal in 1961 was attended by delegates from industry, the federal and provincial governments, sportsmen's groups, and universities. It was mentioned again and again that, because of more leisure time, the public's use of renewable resources, such as wildlife, was increasing at a greater rate than Canada's population growth. Representatives of agriculture, water resources, regional development, forestry, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife all said that more emphasis must be placed on research if the different users were to enjoy the benefits which could accrue from the only sensible course of action - planned multiple use of renewable resources.

Wildlife management in Canada must place stress on the preservation of natural habitat as much as it stresses the preservation of the mammals and fish which live there. A wild animal and its surroundings cannot be separated; one cannot be preserved without preserving the other.