



# Bulletin

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## THE PRESERVATION OF CANADA'S WILDLIFE

The following is part of a recent address by Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to the Canadian Wildlife Federation in Ottawa:

...One of the objects of the national parks is to provide a sanctuary within which wildlife may continue to exist in a natural state. Wood Buffalo Park provides many thousands of square miles of sanctuary for Canada's buffalo herd. The mountain parks provide a setting of unparalleled magnificence within which the wildlife thrives in its natural habitat.

The pressures on the animal world continue to grow, and our parks systems do not yet provide for all the species which we ought to think about preserving. There is an ominous sound about the designation "vanishing species". What are we losing? Not only a physical entity but also the end product of irreplaceable years of evolution. The very thought that a whole species of animal could be lost to man forever is repellent. Yet we have in Canada a number of species which are in imminent danger of total extinction and a considerable number which are in some danger in so far as their existence on Canadian soil is concerned.

### IMPERILLED SPECIES

There are six species and one group of birds which are in jeopardy today. The most famous of this embattled group is the whooping crane. There are now about 50 of these birds, including the young in the wild population, and another 12 being reared in captivity. Most of you are familiar with the Canadian Wildlife Service's egg-collecting mission last year. At that time, the Service collected one egg from each of the six nests in which there were two eggs. The collected eggs were taken to the U.S. Fowl Research

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Station at Patuxent, Maryland, where they were hatched. Four chicks have survived, all of which are doing well. One of the outcomes of the collection was not anticipated - all the eggs left in the nests in Wood Buffalo Park hatched and the chicks survived, a most unusual situation with whooping cranes which have a high mortality rate in the wild. It is unusual for both twins to survive.

There has been a lot of publicity about the whooping crane and the publicity is one of the reasons why it can be said that we can look forward to a small but growing population of this magnificent bird. There is less reason to be optimistic about the future of the Eskimo curlew - a bird once thought to be extinct but which has been sighted recently in both Texas and Barbados. This remarkable bird's breeding-grounds were in the MacKenzie area of the Northwest Territories. Up till the 1890s the birds were plentiful, and huge flocks would fly south down the Mississippi valley on their long flight to South America, where they wintered in Southern Chile and the Argentine. Man and the shotgun reduced the population dramatically. The last bird taken in Canada was reported to have been on the coast of Labrador in 1932. Shooting is now forbidden - as if there were any significant numbers left to shoot. The Canadian Wildlife biologists are seeking the breeding ground of the few which have been sighted and if found, there will be an attempt made to rebuild the flock.

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

### STANDARDS COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

Federal and provincial government officials endorsed a proposal recently to create a Standards Council of Canada. The purpose of the Council will be to promote and co-ordinate standardization activities in Canada and Canadian participation in the establishment of international standards.

It will co-ordinate and strengthen Canadian standardization activities to meet the needs of all sectors of the economy in both domestic commerce and international trade. [See *Canadian Weekly Bulletin, No. 11, P. 1.*]

Membership of the new body will be composed of representatives of federal and provincial governments, industry, labour unions, trade associations, professional societies and consumer organizations.

Consultations with trade, industry, consumer and other interested groups are planned during the next few months.

The Standards Council of Canada will work in close co-operation with existing standards-setting organizations.

### NEW FLAG-FLYING RULES

Instructions for flying the new Canadian Forces ensign were issued recently to all units.

The ensign, which incorporates Canada's national flag in the upper quarter next to the hoist, with the Forces emblem in the fly, all on a white background, will not eclipse the national flag, which continues to be flown at the "main or superior" flag pole by all military establishments inside and outside Canada.

Only those establishments in Canada with a second flag pole are permitted to fly the ensign. The ensign will not be flown at military establishments outside Canada or on Canadian territory jointly occupied by Canadian and foreign forces.

When the national flag is half-mast, the ensign will also be flown at half-mast. At military funerals, caskets will be draped with the national flag unless the next of kin specifically requests the ensign.

### ARCHAEOLOGISTS MEET

The first meeting was held recently in Winnipeg of the Canadian Archaeological Association, which will open the field of archaeology for the first time on a national basis to interested individuals and permit professionals and non-professionals to publish papers on their work.

There are almost 50 Canadian archaeologists working full-time in Canada, said Dr. J.V. Wright, Chief Archaeologist of the National Museum of Canada. It was difficult to estimate the number of non-professionals, he said, but some had contributed a great deal to Canadian archaeology.

Dr. Wright believes farmers who plow up arrowheads or other artifacts may wish to join the Association. This would also apply to other individuals

who, for one reason or another, are interested in archaeology.

"There are cases where a non-professional is familiar with a particular area and has collected from it for years," Dr. Wright said. "He is able to pass on information in a short time that would require the professional much longer to acquire on his own."

### ALASKA FERRY EXEMPTION

Northern Development Minister Arthur Laing has announced Government approval for the Alaska State Ferry System to carry Canadian commercial traffic to and from the Yukon between Prince Rupert, British Columbia and Haines, Alaska. Such traffic movements were prohibited previously by the Canada Shipping Act, which required that freight moving between two points in Canada by water must be carried in Canadian ships. The exemption just granted, which is for one year, will be reviewed annually.

This action, Mr. Laing explained, had been taken in response to many representations received from the Yukon and would provide an alternate means of moving freight into the region. Advantage must be taken of all available access routes, Mr. Laing explained. Since there was no Canadian shipping organization currently providing a ferry service for large commercial vehicles, nor does it appear one will develop in the near future, it seemed only reasonable to take this positive step towards improving transportation service for the Yukon.

### BRIDGE IN CAMEROUN

An agreement under which Canada will help design and construct a bridge in Cameroun was signed in Yaoundé this month by Mr. Lionel Chevrier, who is heading a Canadian external-aid mission to the French-speaking nations of Africa. The 280-foot bridge at Akonolinga, east of Yaoundé, will link an important agricultural area with the major markets and ports. Canadian consultants will design and supervise construction at a cost to Canada of \$390,000.

In announcing the signing of the agreement, Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, said that the bridge would be the first major capital-aid project undertaken by Canada in this area of Africa. Beauchemin, Beaton and Lapointe, consultant engineers, will face an engineering challenge a bridging the Nyong River, which frequently floods and has washed away two previous structures. The steel components will be assembled on the spot under the supervision of Mr. Roger Beauchemin and a team of Canadian experts. Cameroun has undertaken to build the abutment piers and to provide local employees and materials at an estimated cost of \$210,000.

High priority has been given by Cameroun to the replacement of the present inadequate ferry service over the Nyong, in order to develop the agricultural

potential of an area which produces cocoa, coffee and palm oil.

Cameroun, on the West African coast near Nigeria, is an officially bilingual (French and English) country of 5 million residents. It has sent 70 students to Canada for training under aid programmes and has been given the services of 98 Canadian teachers. Under the 1967-68 Canadian aid programme, a total of \$1,120,000 was allocated for technical and capital assistance to Cameroun.

### HYDROLOGICAL DECADE STAMP

A 5-cent stamp, to be released by the Canada Post Office on May 8, will commemorate Canada's participation in the International Hydrological Decade 1965-1974, which is being sponsored by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The large, horizontal, predominantly-brown stamp was designed by Professor Imre von Mosdossy, a Canadian of Hungarian birth now living in Agincourt, Ontario.

The new issue, in four colours, is 40 mm. by 24 mm. in size. A weighing-rain gauge appears in the centre, flanked on the right by white lettering on a dark-brown background: "International Hydrological Decade", "1965-1974", "Decennie hydrologique internationale" and "Canada". To the left, a small red maple leaf is superimposed on a picture of the world in space. Water and precipitation are in white, the world is coloured blue. The sun and radiating rays in the upper left corner and the denomination at the lower left are white.

Canada is one of 97 member states co-operating in the international study to increase knowledge in the developed countries and to increase the ability of the underdeveloped countries to gain knowledge of their own water resources. Canada has served for four years on a co-ordinating council of 21 member countries.

### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The sharp contraction to \$425 million in Canada's current-account deficit from transactions in goods and services, which occurred in 1967, was even greater than had been expected. The improvement of over \$700 million in 1967 was the result of a substantial growth of some \$250 million in the merchandise surplus and of an extraordinary improvement of about \$450 million in the non-merchandise balance as the result mainly of Expo 67. The balance ended the year on a strong note which reflected a recovery

in demand for Canadian merchandise exports to the high levels prevailing earlier in the year, as rising import demands within the United States economy replaced demand from overseas countries for wheat and some other Canadian commodities, combined with some decline in domestic demand for imports.

Inflows of capital in long-term forms of \$1,386 million were partly offset by outflows of \$943 million in short-term forms. Canada's official monetary assets increased \$18 million over the year.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

In January, 34,522 births were filed in provincial offices, a rise of 0.9 per cent over the 34,224 registered in January 1967. Five provinces recorded increases.

There were 9,735 marriages registered in January, up 6.8 per cent from the 9,112 registrations of January 1967. Despite this general increase, five provinces reported decreases in the first month of 1968.

In January, 15,659 deaths were registered in provincial offices, compared to 13,615 in the corresponding month in 1967. Seven provinces reported higher death totals than in January last year.

### THE PRESERVATION OF CANADA'S WILDLIFE

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nesting. At the same time, the Indian people have a legitimate complaint that they should have the first claim against the resource by virtue of historic rights, treaty obligation and the fact that what is to many hunters an edible extra on the family table, may be the difference between famine and an adequate diet to the Indian and Eskimo.

If we could be good fellows and say yes to both the outraged Indians and the conservationists, there would be no problem, but we cannot easily do that. What sort of solution we can find that will meet all the conflicts in this thorny and troubled situation, I do not, at this time, know. I have members of my staff who are seeking solutions - some of them quarrel with their fellows about it - but I think we might find some ways of accommodating enough of both sides to make a reasonable and sensible compromise between the need to ensure that there are ducks to hunt and the equally great need to let Indian families feed themselves on what has always been their natural source of food....

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