PISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
REPORT

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Hon. Clare E. Mapledoram Minister F. A. MacDougall Deputy Minister



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(THESE REPORTS ARE FOR INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION AND NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

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#### EXPERIMENTAL WETLANDS APPRAISAL IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO

H. Gray Merriam Ontario Department of Lands and Forests Fish and Wildlife Division

#### ABSTRACT

Three townships and portions of 2 others in southern Ontario were used as test areas for 4 wetland appraisal techniques. A field method using concession-block\* aerial mosaics and punch-type index cards was superior to the others tested. Inventory of one township of 95 square miles required 25 man-days and cost approximately \$3.25 per square mile surveyed. Pre-survey planning and educational programs were lacking from this survey. Factual values of wetlands resources should be publicized along with proposals for acquisition and management before inventory is undertaken. Government agencies other than those concerned with wildlife management hold shares in wetlands resources. Certain of these other agencies may be currently fitted to inventory and acquire wetlands in southern Ontario more economically than the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. Wetlands acquisition is an economical method of preserving valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat. Wildlife habitat and recreation areas have not been produced more cheaply in southern Ontario than they might be by wetland acquisition. Minnesota purchased nearly 25,000 wetland acres for about \$29.50 per acre. This means of habitat restoration warrants consideration.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The advice and criticisms of Dr. A. de Vos, Associate Professor, Ontario Agricultural College and Mr. A. T. Cringan, Ontario Department of Lands and Forests guided this investigation to completion. Working facilities were supplied by the Department of Entomology and Zoology of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, Ontario. The Ontario Department of Planning and Development coperated in supplying data from their River Valley Conservation Surveys. Timber Management Division of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests supplied all aerial photographs.

#### THE 1956 EXPERIMENTAL SURVEY

Experimental wetlands surveys were conducted on about 175,000 acres in Southern Ontario during the period May to August, 1956. Fieldwork covered the whole of Puslinch, Guelph and Eramosa Townships and a portion of Erin Township, in Wellington County, as well as 20,000 acres in Mulmur Township, Dufferin County. Four experimental techniques for appraising wetlands resources in Southern Ontario were organized.

Detailed descriptions of the 4 techniques are given in Appendix I. The techniques are numbered in the order in which they were developed.

<sup>\*</sup> the area bounded by 2 concession roads and 2 cross roads or their rights-of-way.

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# Technique 1 -- Non dispensable photographs: topographic map: field forms Method

The initial method (Technique 1) was based on the plant associations of an hydrosere. Efficiency of this method was low for several reasons.

- 1) Unnecessary time was used in sorting photos to obtain coverage of the desired concession-block.
- 2) Photos were borrowed and had to remain in the vehicle. Consequently the fieldman had no quide, other than his memory, to the location or condition of the several wetlands he had to inspect while away from the vehicle.
- 3) Wetland locations recorded on a l inch: l mile topographic map were unsatisfactory because of small sizes or high densities of wetlands. No other method of recording locations was possible with this technique.
- 4) When fieldwork was completed all photographs and all field sheets had to be consulted to obtain the coverage for each concession-block which contained wetlands. The wetland then had to be planimetered and the area datum recorded with the other data for that wetland. Much more time was expended in this operation than would be necessary if the photographic coverage for each concession-block was indexed and readily accessible.

A cost breakdown of a survey by this method is given in Table II and its accompanying text.

## Technique 2 -- Concession-block mosaics: field forms Method

Technique 2 was organized for the following purposes.

- 1) Provide a guide for the fieldman.
- 2) Produce accurate records of wetlands locations.
- 3) Provide permanent records of the condition of wetlands during the survey.
- 4) Speed up planimetering of wetlands' areas. The index on each mosaic folder allowed easy access to the photo coverage and wetlands data for any concession-block.

Summarizing data from this method was unwieldy. Each folder contained data on several wetland types; all folders had to be inspected once for each wetland type. This was time consuming.

An advantage of this approach is that mosaics used for wetlands surveys may be used for other purposes, such as upland game surveys, by other investigators.

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An agelands surveys as serveys, by conca This method may be modified by recording "Dispersion" and "Plant Associations" (Punch Card Index Sheet) on every tenth wetland. These data are of use only in establishing the typical vegetative complex of each of the 10 wetlands types. Labour expenditure would be reduced in this way.

The Mulmur Township area on which this technique was tested had such a low wetland density that a quantitative comparison of the efficiency of this technique with other techniques was not possible. Table I gives a qualitative comparison.

Usefulness of this method hinges on the availability of dispensable, recent photo coverage.

## Techni que 3 -- Non-dispensable photographs: punch cards Method

Technique 3 was organized to reduce time required for summarizing and to provide better permanent records of descriptive data.

Efficiency of a survey by this method (using borrowed photos) was limited by the disadvantages given under Technique 1 which also employs non-dispensable photo coverage.

Technique 3 has some advantages over Technique 1. Recording and summarizing data was aided by the use of punch cards. Additional analyses of the data recorded on these cards can be undertaken later; blank punch holes are reserved for this purpose.

## Technique 4 -- Concession-block mosaics: punch cards Method

Technique 4 employed the most efficient means of guiding fieldmen and recording wetlands locations combined with the most useful means of recording descriptive data. Permanent records were produced which can be easily stored and analysed.

This method was not field tested because no dispensable photo coverage was available at this time. The comparative values shown in Table I are valid without field trial because both concession-block mosaics and punch cards have been tested as components of other techniques.

#### Accuracy

A check on the accuracy of fieldwork carried out during the 1956 field season was not possible. Error was unavoidable, however, because of growth changes in aquatic vegetation. Some potholes inspected in May had no vegetation; late in July or early in August some of these same units would have been well vegetated and would have been classed as deep marshes. Phenological errors cannot be avoided when long field seasons must be used. More complete knowledge of the ecology of individual wetlands of each of the various types will allow correction for these errors.

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TABLE I
QUALITATIVE COMPARISON OF EFFICIENCY OF FOUR WETLAND APPRAISAL TECHNIQUES

	Rated in L			
	Pre-survey Preparation	Fieldwork	Summarizing	*Usefulness
Technique l (non-dispensable photos: topo map: field forms)	high	high	average	poor
Technique 2 (concession-block mosaics: field forms)	high	low	high	fair
Technique 3 (non-dispensable photos: topo map: punch cards)	average	average	average	fair
Technique 4 (concession-block mosaics: punch cards)	<b>av</b> erage	low	low	excellent

<sup>\*</sup> In addition to labour expended, value and multiple usefulness of the permanent records obtained (as discussed under Technique 4) are considered.

Labour and Costs Involved in Wetlands Appraisal

Table II compares the labour expended in surveying 3 townships with the wetlands densities in these areas. With a density of one wetland on each 87 acres of map area a large number of wetlands and a small map area can be surveyed per day. In an area with one wetland on each 270 acres more time is spent travelling between wetlands. Consequently a smaller number of wetlands and a larger map area can be surveyed per day. Table II refers to a survey by Technique I.

TABLE II

LABOUR EXPENDED IN WETLANDS SURVEY OF KNOWN SAMPLE AREAS

(Total sample area 144,313 acres)

Density (Acres/wetland)	Number of wetlands inspected/man-day	Total land acreage inspected/man-day
87	30	2600
270	17	4623
289	23.5	6775

## Survey Costs for Known and Unknown Sample Areas

Puslinch Township, Wellington County, Ontario has a map area of 59,904 acres with a wetland density of 1 wetland per 87 acres. Twenty-three man-days of fieldwork and 2 man-days of office time were required to completely survey this township (using Technique 1).

This survey cost approximately  $\prightarrow309.50$  or  $\prightarrow3.25$  per square mile of map area surveyed. (Estimate includes salary, transportation and office materials. Photographic coverage was supplied at no cost by the Timber Management Division of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests.)

Estimates of labour required to survey unknown areas may be derived from Table II. By extrapolation an hypothetical township of 50,000 acres map area with a wetland density of 1 wetland per 183 acres might require from 11 to 14 man-days of fieldwork plus 2 man-days office time. This estimate assumes a one-man crew. Labour may be reduced by the use of a 2 man crew, as discussed later in this report.

Approximate costs of survey may be determined, in advance, from this estimate.

## Education and Publicity

Pre-survey educational programs are essential. Publicity should be applied at all levels if wetlands conservation is to be successful.

Publicity at the administrative level, both inter- and intradepartmental is vital to the enlistment of biologists, soil scientists, agriculturalists and others in a combined effort.

When the public -- wetland owners and urbanites -- know the meaning of "wetlands" and "wetlands survey", a sense of values of wetlands may be formed.

Fieldmen should execute a follow-up to preliminary publicity. The fieldmen's understanding of wetlands, their values and their possible place in the future, must be adequate to answer the landowners' questions satisfactorily. This situation is possible only if administrative chiefs have given their fieldmen a full understanding of the wetlands program.

Unless pre-planned programs of acquisition and management have been formed publicity is not desirable.

Wetlands educational programs should be based on facts. Special air surveys to determine the amount game species use wetlands have been used elsewhere in this fact finding. The percentage of a total number of observations on a game species that were made in wetland areas may also be convincing.

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### Survey Administration

## Fieldwork

Wetlands survey fieldwork could be accomplished in several ways. Surveys could be executed by: special inventory biologists, existing district staff, special summer student crews or existing staff of Departments other than Lands and Forests.

Inventory biologists are not yet available in the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests.

Existing district staff, whether biologists or conservation officers, in the present organization, would be able to inspect wetlands only on a part-time basis. Some data would possibly be outdated before the completion of such a survey.

Special crews of summer students (Forestry, Biology or Agriculture) could conduct the fieldwork adequately. However, additional supervisory staff would have to be provided.

Existing field staff of other departments potentially could inspect many wetlands in southern Ontario. As an example, field crews of the Ontario Department of Planning and Development recently covered much of the area included in this year's wetland survey. These crews will continue River Valley Conservation Surveys in areas that should be surveyed for wetlands. Such field crews could do wetlands fieldwork if supplied with materials and instructions. Survey costs would be significantly reduced if fieldwork could be accomplished in this way.

The monotony of wetlands fieldwork reduces efficiency and accuracy if a one-man crew is employed steadily at this work. This situation could be partially corrected if one-man crews carried on other work, such as mammal or plant collecting, along with wetlands inspection. The modification of Technique 2 mentioned above would likewise relieve monotony for a single worker. A two-man crew, working from one vehicle but separately in the field would be more satisfactory than a lone worker.

## Acquisition and Management

In other wetlands resources programs inventory has been followed by acquisition. Acquisition (or some other phase of management) should follow inventory closely—if inventory data are to be useful for acquisition purposes. Acquisition even without immediate management would at least assure the continued existence of the purchased units. River Valley Authorities could potentially incorporate the fieldwork and administration of wetlands acquisition in their current land acquisition programs.

What agency will manage the acquired wetlands? This is one question that should be answered <u>before</u> inventory plans will be complete.

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#### APPENDIX I

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

(Apply to all techniques)

- 1) Include all areas over 1/4 acre in size.
- 2) Include open water areas up to 10 acres in size (July conditions). (Open water areas over 10 acres should be covered by a separate lake survey.)
- 3) Include river and stream bottomlands and their shoreline vegetation.
- 4) Include artificial impoundments or dugouts only if over 1/2 acre in size and only if wildlife habitat on the area has been improved.

### DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR WETLANDS SURVEY FIELD METHODS

Technique 1 -- Non-dispensable photographs: topographic map: field forms Method.

### Pre-survey Preparation

Number all concession-blocks directly on the topographic sheet, starting with No. 1 in each township and numbering consecutively until the township is completed.

Draw and number all photographic flight lines directly on the topographic sheet. This may be done by locating the first and last photos of each line, on the map, and joining these locations.

Prepare enough field forms for the area to be surveyed. (See attached sample.)
Fieldwork

Photos are referred to before entering the area, but are left in the vehicle; only the topographic map and field sheets are taken directly into the field. Data are recorded according to the attached "Instructions for Completing Wetlands Field Form".

## Summarizing

Summarize to obtain the following data for <u>each type</u> of wetland: 1) total number of wetlands, 2) total acreage, 3) area class distribution in four acreage classes (0 to 0.99, 1.00 to 4.99, 5.00 to 9.99 and 10.00 plus), 4) total number and total acreage of drainable wetlands of each type and the percentage these form of all wetlands of this type, 5) same as 4) for conditions of grazing.

From these summaries, by type of wetland, the data shown on the attached sample table for Fuslinch Township are derived.

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Type:

Record data for only one type or one subtype of wetland on each field sheet. (See Wetland Classification Guide for a description of each wetland type.)

If an individual wetland is composed of two or more types or subtypes, over 1/4 acre in size, enter each subdivision on

the appropriate field sheet. (See also Location.)

Date:

Record month, date and year as April 12/56. Do not use 4/12/56.

Location:

e.g.  $\frac{2-9}{V-S_{2}^{2}5, N_{2}^{2}6}$ Record as Block No. -- Wetland No. Concession -- Lot(s)

Number each concession block (area outlined by roads) con-

secutively for the county or township.

Number the individual areas, starting with No. 1 in each concession block and numbering consecutively until each concession block is completed. Number the individual areas on the topographic map as on the field sheets.

If an individual wetland is composed of two or more types or subtypes, number each subdivision separately. (See also

Type.)

Predominant

Record only those species which are dominant and in some Vegetation: way characterize the individual wetland and the wetland type in which you have classed it. List the species briefly, in descending order of abundance. (See Symbol sheet for standard abbreviations.) Where possible, record plant associations rather than single species. Record each association in brackets, in descending order of importance, as (Cattail: Sweet flag; Horsetail).

Shape:

Note the topographic outline of the area as one of 1) irregular, 2) round, 3) elongate. Record as I, R or E.

Acres:

Determine the area from the air photo by planimeter or acetate jig. Record to the nearest 1/4 acre.

Drainability:

This refers to ECONOMIC drainability. Record as either "D" (drainable) or "U" (undrainable) on the basis of the three following factors.

1) Can the area be economically drained by gravity? (tile or

ditch).

2) Is the water supply currently used by the owner (e.g. stock water source) and will this use prohibit drainage in the near future?

3) Does the wet area hinder tillage of the field?

Grazing:

Record as either "G" (grazed) or "U" (ungrazed). If the area is lightly grazed, record as ungrazed but note O.T.G. (open to grazing) in the Remarks column.

Adjacent Cover:

Record the type of cover within 100 yeard of the mapped area as; woods, plantation, cropland, improved pasture or unimproved pasture. Record as W, PL, C, IP, or UP.

Easily Record "Yes" if the area <u>obviously</u> can be easily impounded. Impounded: Do not record if "No".

Record the nature of any evident inflow into the area such as: spring, seepage, temporary stream or permanent stream.

Do not record if no inflow.

Wildlife Record common names of game, tracks, droppings, cuttings Utilization: or other signs of utilization seen on, over or near the area. Note age and sex where possible.

Record obvious land use trends, intentions expressed by landowner or other data pertinent to the wildlife values of the wetland.

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June 11/56 Township	rai y t	(acres)		00.00		00.0	00.00	79*0		+0.1		6		0000		**00.0		0.14%** of 6685.75 acres drainable
Date June	% of Township	oo.15		00.20	10.00		00.00	00.72	69.00		00.31	00.05	00.26	000	2	13.75		rusinnen Township acreage 59,904
G. Merriam	% of Total Wetlands Acrease	05.68		05.50	00.54	11.25		26.62	25.42		11.42	01.85	09.72					and Development.  during current survey only data are hot
Compiled by H. (	Acreage	92.00		121.50	8.75	182.25		431.25	411.75	185 00	103.00	30.00	157.25	1619.75	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	2983.50* 8234.50	1	from data recorded during currellands and Forests survey only-bevelopment survey data are not
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County Wellington	Type	Potholes A (no shrub or tree border)	S B	border)	Deep Marsh	Shallow Marsh	Shrub Swamp A	$\mathbf{v}$	Shrub Swamp B (open canopy)	Shrub Swamp *	Bog A	(timbered fringe)	Bog B (scattered timber)	Totals (excluding timbered	of swamps)	Timbered Swamp	* Data from Ontario	** Figures computed Ontario Dept. of Dept. Planhing & considered.



Technique 2 -- Concession-block mosaics: field forms Method.

## Pre-survey Preparation

Number concession blocks on a topographic sheet as in Technique 1.

Prepare one cap-size manilla file folder for each concession-block to be surveyed. Index the folders with County, Concession, Lots, Township and Block Number for the mosaic each will contain.

Cut mosaic sections from the original photos to form complete, separate mosaics for each concession-block to be surveyed. Mark the block number and a north direction arrow on the back of each mosaic section, as cut. Paste these sections, on the left, inside the prepared manilla folders. Mark a direction arrow on each folder beside the mosaic.

Prepare field forms (see attached sample) and fasten one in each manilla folder, opposite the mosaic. (An extra field form may be attached later if required.)

#### Fieldwork

The appropriate manilla folder is taken directly into the field. Each wetland is outlined and numbered on the photo and the description recorded opposite the corresponding wetland number on the field sheet. Data is recorded as described in Technique 1.

## Summarizing

Each field sheet contains data on several types of wetlands; folders must each be inspected to summarize the data for <u>each</u> type of wetland. When summary by type is accomplished, proceed toward the final summary as outlined in Technique 1.

Technique 3 -- Non-dispensable photos: topographic map: punch card Method.

## Pre-survey Preparation

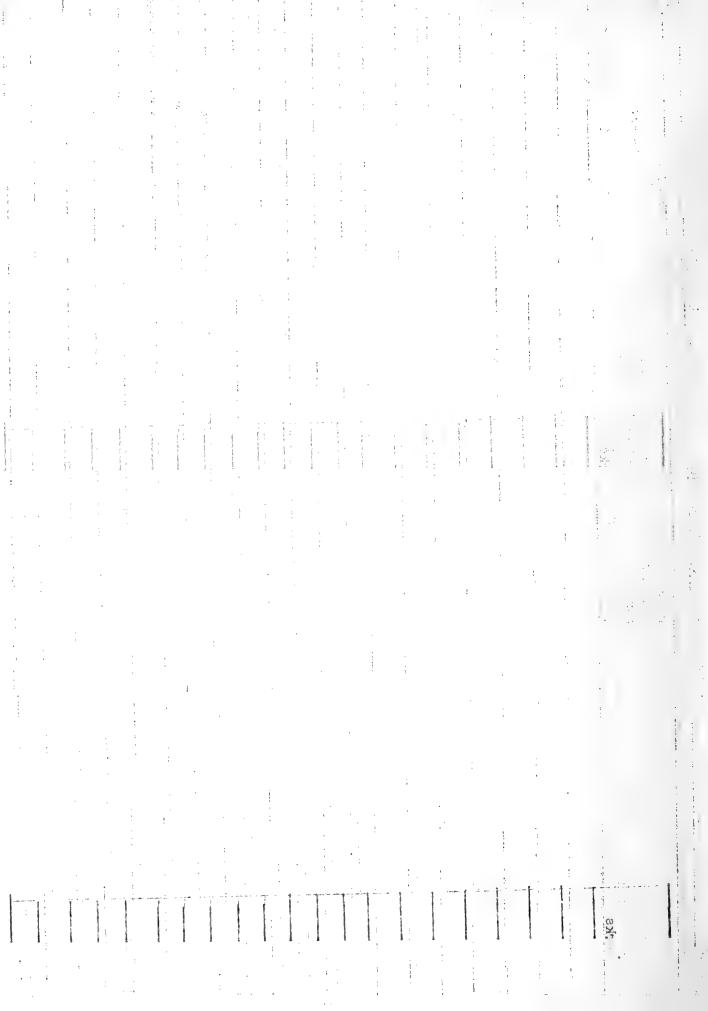
Office preparation for this method is identical with that of Technique 1 except no field sheets are needed. Punch-type index cards (4" x 6") are substituted. (See attached code sheet and sample card.)

## Fieldwork

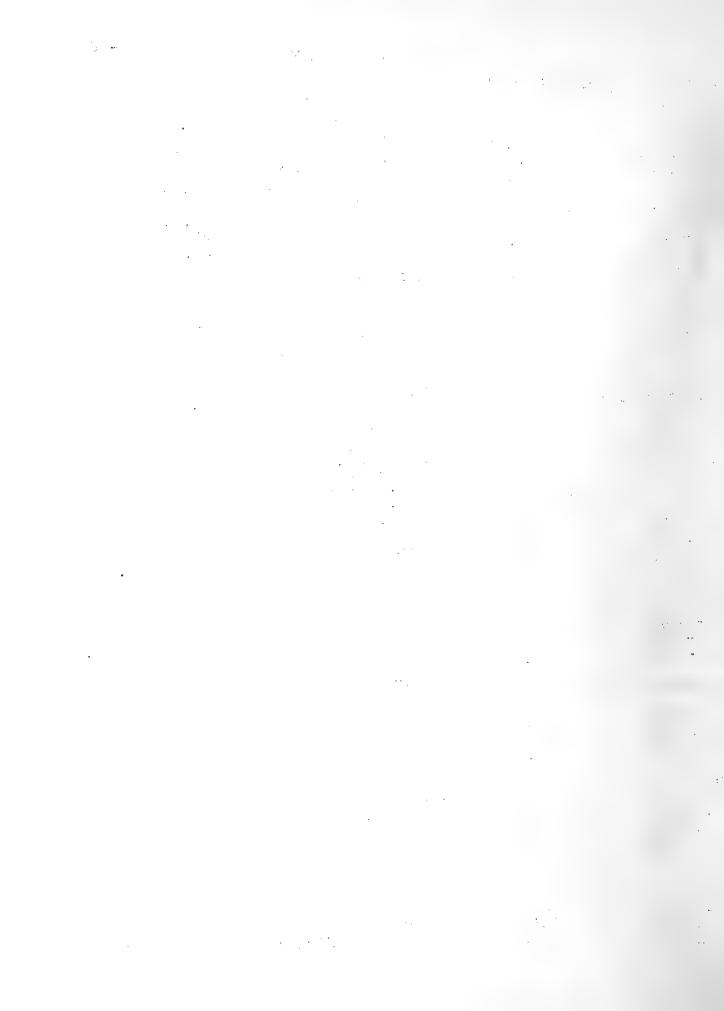
Fieldwork in this method is identical with Technique 1 except recording is by marking the appropriate hole, on the card, with pencil and writing additional information on the face of the card. Punch holes are only marked in the field, and punched later, to preserve the card's margin.

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Date		Compiled by	Ħ	Gray Merriam	iam	County	Dufferin	Township	Mulmir	
No.	Type	Predominant Vegetation	Shape Irregular Round Flongate I, R, E	Acres	Drain- ability D or U	Grazed or not G or U	Adjacent cove	Easily impounded? Any cover inflow?	ල ග	Rema
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	PUNCH	CARD INDEA SHEET	
DISPERSION (% surfactored)	e area	TYPE Pothole A	20
Open water 0% 0 - 10% 10 - 40% 40 - 100%	1 1, 2 2, 3	Pothole B Artificial Deep Marsh Shallow Marsh Shrub Swamp A	20,21 21,22 22,23
Floating, not rooted  0%  0 - 10%  10 - 40%  40 - 100%	3 3, 4 4 4, 5	Shrub Swamp B Bog A Bog B Timbered Swamp  ADJACENT COVER	23,24 23,24 24,25
Submerged rooted 0% 0 - 10% 10 - 40% 40 - 100%	5 5, 6 6, 7	Woodlot Plantation Crop Improved Pasture Unimproved Pasture	26 27 28 29 30
Floating rooted 0% 0 - 10% 10 - 40% 40 - 100%	7 7, 8 8 8, 9	SHAPE Irregular Round Elongate  AREA CLASS	31,32 32 33
Emergent broad-leaved 0% 0 - 10% 10 - 40%	9 9,10 10	0 - 0.99 1.00 - 4.99 5.00 - 9.99 10.00 plus DRAINABILITY Yes	34,35 35 36
40 - 100%  Emergent reed-like 0% 0 - 10% 10 - 40%	10,11 11,12 12	No GRAZED Yes No	37 38 39 40
40 - 100%  Gramineae and Carex  0%  0 - 10%	12,13 13,14	No but O.T.G.  EASILY IMPOUNDED  Yes No  ANY INFLOW	41 42 43
10 - 40% 40 - 100%	14,15	Yes No	44 45
Shrubs 0% 0 - 10% 10 - 40% 40 - 100%	15 15,16 16 16,17	WRITE ON CARD  County Township Concession Lots	
0 - 10%	17 17,18 18 18,19	Date Worker Plant Associations Area Game and Sign seen Remarks	



### Summarizing

Summarizing is accomplished by needle-sorting the punch cards and proceeding identically as in Technique 1. In addition, the modal and mean percentages of each ecological type of vegetation may be determined for each wetland type.

Technique 4 -- Concession-block mosaics: punch card Method

## Pre-survey Preparation

Concession-block mosaics are prepared as in Technique 2 but no field forms are needed. Punch cards (Technique 3) are substituted.

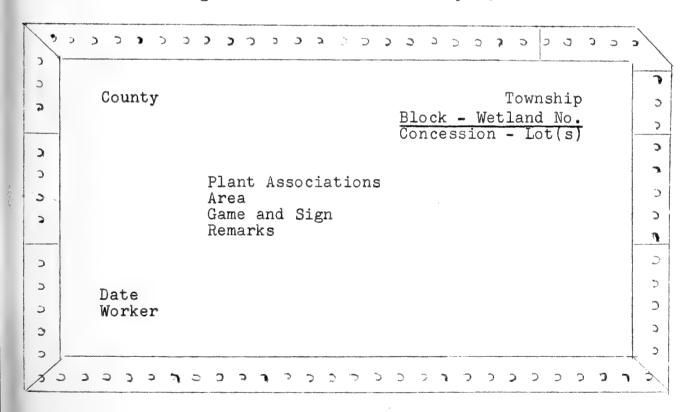
#### Fieldwork

Mosaic folders are taken directly into the field along with a supply of punch cards. Wetlands locations are recorded by outlining and numbering directly on the mosaic.

All descriptive data are recorded on the punch cards--one card for each wetland unit.

### Summarizing

Summarizing is identical with Technique 3.



#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAINING WETLANDS SURVEY FIELDMEN

Very little training should be necessary for fieldmen who have studied elementary plant ecology. Other personnel should receive an adequate review of the ecological stages and substages of an hydrosere. Fieldmen should be impressed with the lack of definity of these ecological stages as encountered in the field; heterogeneous admixtures of several stages should be expected.

Recognition of the trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants listed on the wetlands "Symbol Sheets" (attached) would be adequate for work in the Guelph area.

Familiarity with collecting and keying procedures would be useful.

Field recognition of aquatic plants throughout the entire field season is next to impossible. Therefore the fieldmen should be able to classify wetlands ecologically when unable to determine all the genera of plants found on the area.

The following are useful references and field handbooks.

Fassett. Manual of Aquatic Plants. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York. 1940.

Meunschner. Aquatic Plants of the United States. Comstock Publishing Company, Ithaca, New York. 1944.

Weaver and Clements. Plant Ecology. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York. 1929.

#### SYMBOL SHEET

The symbols for Trees and Shrubs, Forest Cover Types and Herbaceous Plants shown on this sheet are only partial lists. Species encountered in other regions but not represented on these lists must be added as encountered.

### Trees and Shrubs

ALg grey alder ASb black ash ASw white ash BIW white birch BIY yellow birch CEW white cedar CR cranberry DOs dogwood shrubs ELc corky (rock) elm ELr red (slippery) elm ELw white elm FIb balsam fir GA Gale HAS hawthorn shrubs HE hemlock LAt tamarack LEl leather leaf MAh hard maple MAr red maple MAr red maple PIj jack pine PIr red pine PIs scotch pine PIw white pine PIs scotch pine PIw white pine POb balsam poplar POl large tooth aspen POt trembling aspen SPa Spiraea SPb black spruce SPw white spruce WIb black willow WIs willow shrubs	Alnus rugosa Fraxinus nigra Fraxinus americana Betula papyrifera Betula lutea Thuja occidentalis Vaccinium spp. Cornus spp. Ulmus Thomasi Ulmus rubra Ulmus americana Abies balsamea Myrica Gale Crataegus spp. Tsuga canadensis Larix decidua Chamaedaphne calyculata Acer saccharum Acer rubrum Acer saccharinum Pinus Banksiana Pinus resinosa Pinus sylvestris Pinus Strobus Populus balsamifera Populus grandidentata Populus tremuloides Spiraea alba Picea mariana Picea glauca Salix nigra Salix spp.
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Trees and Shrubs are symbolized by writing the first two letters of the proper noun in capitals, followed by the initial letter of the qualifying adjective, written in the lower case. Grey alder is represented by AL(der) g(rey).

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### Forest Cover Types \*

4 Aspen

6 Paper birch

21 White spruce - balsam fir - paper birch

22 Balsam fir

24 White cedar Tamarack

25 26 Black ash - white elm - red or silver maple

60 Silver maple - white elm

60A White elm 88 Willow

- H (hardwood) denotes a stand composed of 80% or more broad-leaved trees.
- C. (coniferous) denotes a stand composed of 80% or more coniferous trees.
- (mixed) denotes a stand composed of less than 80% M broad-leaved trees and less than 80% conifers.

\* The numbers used to represent forest cover types are according to the Society of American Foresters (1940) system. Additional cover type symbols may be found in Forest Cover Types of the Eastern United States - Society of American Foresters, 1940, or in the River Valley Conservation Reports published by the Ontario Department of Planning and Development.

These are some of the associations of tree species found commonly in wetlands. All associations of trees encountered will not fit the designated types exactly. Place each woodlot in the type it fits most closely then note any additional species as in the following examples.

A stand composed predominantly of aspen with some white cedar is recorded as "4 with CEw". Similarly a woodlot predominantly white cedar but with some tamarack is noted as "24 with LAt".

### Herbaceous Plants<sup>™™</sup> (Partial list)

ACc	Acorus calamus	Sweet flag
AL	Algae	Algae
ASi		Swamp milkweed
CAs	Carex spp.	Sedges
ELs		Spike rush
ELc	Elodea canadensis	Canada waterweed
EQs	Equisetum spp.	Horsetail
IRv	Iris versicolor	Iris
JUs		Spike rush
LA	Labiatae	Mint family
LEg	Ledum groenlandicum	Labrador tea
NUa	Nuphar advena	Yellow water lily
NYo		White water lily
POc	Pontederia cordata	Pickerelweed
POs		Pondweeds
POLs		Smartweeds
SAl	Sagittaria latifolia	Duck potato
SCs	Scirpus spp.	Bulrush
SIs	Sium suave	Water parsnip
SPs	Sphagnum spp.	Sphagnum moss
TYl	Typha latifolia	Cattail

1. 33. 

\*\*Herbaceous plants are not symbolized according to an accepted system. These species are represented by writing the first two letters of the generic name in capitals followed by the initial letter of the specific name, written in the lower case. (A lower case "s" represents several species of the genus.)

Terms used under the heading "DISPERSION" on the Punch Card Index Sheet are based on the recognized ecological stages of an hydrosere. "Floating, not rooted" refers to such plants as Lemna spp. and Wolffia spp. "Submerged rooted" includes Elodea canadensis and Chara spp. Typha spp., Sagittaria spp., Pontederia spp., and Calla palustris are "Emergent broad-leaved". "Emergent reed-like" vegetation is exemplified by Juncus spp., Eleocharis spp., Scirpus spp. and others. Gramineae and Carex are grouped together because they both occur in adjacency, in some proportion, around most wetland areas.



## AN EVALUATION OF CANADA GOOSE KILLS BY THE INDIANS OF NORTHERN ONTARIO

Harold C. Hanson and Campbell Currie2

In 1946, the U. S. portion of the Mississippi Flyway was closed to the hunting of Canada geese. The flyway closure proclamation came as the ultimate climax to a series of years of excessive kills in Illinois in the vicinity of the Horseshoe Lake Game Preserve. In 1947, the season on Canada geese was reopened with a bag limit of one bird per day. Further protection was given the goose flock wintering at Horseshoe Lake by closing to hunting a large sector of private land around this refuge. These and further restrictions, an expanded refuge program, plus a series of favorable breeding seasons enabled the Mississippi Valley flyway flock to regain and then far exceed its earlier numbers. Today, the present population considerably exceeds that of any time in recent decades.

The hunting of Canada geese in Ontario, i.e., that part of Canada lying within the Mississippi Valley flyway, was not curtailed as an aftermath of overshooting in the States, probably for the very reason that the kill of Canada geese by white hunters in southern Ontario has always been negligible. In northern Ontario, however, in the District of Patricia, the Cree Indians trapping within 150 miles of the coasts of James and Hudson Bay have apparently always made a fairly sizeable kill of Canada geese.

In 1947, an effort was made to ascertain the kill made by the Indians that hunt and trap over the breeding grounds of the Mississippi Valley flock, fig. 1. A majority of the trappers were contacted by personal interview. From the data obtained, an estimate of the kill at that time was made, table 1. Thus when the flyway population was approximately 54,600 birds, the spring kill by the Indians trapping the breeding grounds was calculated to be about 4,600 geese, or about 8.5 per cent of the flight leaving the States.

Since 1947, the Flyway population has increased by about 4.8 times. The January 1954 inventory indicated a population of 160,000 wintering in southern Illinois alone. Consequently it became a matter of considerable interest to determine the Indian kill in the fall of 1953 and the spring of 1954 in the light of the increased population of geese. Had the Indian kill increased in proportion to the increase in the numbers of geese reaching the breeding grounds - or, its corollary, were the Indians benefiting by the increased supply of geese? Opportunity

lllinois Natural History Survey, Urbana.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, Sioux Lookout.

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to obtain data to answer these questions was offered the writers by the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. To the officials of this agency, Hanson, the "outsider" of this report, is most appreciative.

### Itinerary, June 1954 Trip

The following posts in northern Ontario were visited jointly by the writers:

Round Lake Bearskin Lake Big Trout Lake Kasabonica Sachigo Lake Ft. Severn Weenusk Sutton Lake	June June June June June June	12-15 15 16 17 18-19 19
Sutton Lake Landsdowne	June	20
Ft. Hope	June	20-22

In addition to these posts, data were obtained by Messrs. Campbell Currie and Thomas Batchelor from the posts of:

Little Grand Rapids Island Lake Shamattawa Osnaburgh Pickle Lake Big Beaver House

### Results

Kill data were obtained in 1954 by means of personal interview from about 71 per cent of the trapper population residing in the band areas visited. In figure 2, the location of the various band trapping areas, their size in square miles, and the number of trappers therein are shown. The average, extreme, and calculated kills made by the various bands of Indians interviewed, are summarized in table 2.

A previous analysis of band recoveries from northern Ontario, fig. I (Hanson and Smith, Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv. Bull. Vol. 25, Art. 3, 1950), indicated that 90% of the kill by the Indians of northern Ontario was made in the spring. The 1954 interview data essentially confirm this conclusion.

In 1947, data were obtained only from the coastal posts. The 1954 survey was of particular value as it afforded an opportunity to secure data from inland post areas which were not previously sampled. The posts of Ft. Albany and Attawapiskat were not visited in 1954; data for these posts will be forthcoming, but estimates for these posts can be interpolated from existing data for use here.

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### Discussion and Conclusions

The chief weakness of the 1947 estimate is that the kill for the inland posts (400-700 annually) was essentially a calculated guess based on band recoveries. The present data indicate that this estimate was low, perhaps chiefly because a concerted effort had not been made in earlier years to collect band recovery data from the "inland Indians". The 1954 data indicate a kill of 2-2500 geese by Indians trapping south and west of the muskeg breeding grounds. Perhaps unusual spring weather conditions may have resulted in a larger kill than usual. Indians both at Landsdowne House and Ft. Hope reported to the writers that the geese were driven back south twice by snow storms and cold before making their final northward migration. These reports imply that the geese made five migrational flights over the above sectors, which, if true, provided these Indians with at least three times the normal goose hunting opportunities, the assumption being made that the two southward retreats, made by storm driven geese under "forced draft", provided little hunting. Of further interest, Indians at almost all the posts reported seeing more geese this past spring than within recent memory.

Perhaps the most unexpected findings were from Weenusk and Ft. Severn. Despite the large increase in geese in 1954 over 1947, the average spring kill per Indian in 1954 was not greatly different from the 1947 kill. (Ft. Severn 15.9 vs. 17.0; Weenusk 21.8 vs. 19.0; tables 1 and 2). The 1947 kill estimates for these posts are conservative as they are based on spring kill data only, the fall kill being considered negligible at that time. The 1954 data indicate that the fall kill at these two coastal posts is about 20% of the total annual kill. If the 1946 fall kills for these posts are assumed to have constituted 20 per cent of the annual kill, the total annual average kill per Indian in 1946-47 can be computed and the average annual kill for 1953-54 and 1946-47 seasons compared: Ft. Severn: 19.5 vs. 23.8; Weenusk: 26.8 vs. 21.3.

Band recoveries have indicated the main east and west range of the Mississippi Valley Flyway geese in Ontario can be most satisfactorily described as including that sector of the Province lying between 81° and 92° Longitude. Making allowance for areas within this range not sampled, the total kill of Mississippi Valley Flyway geese in Ontario is calculated to be around 8,400 birds. Whatever deficiencies our findings may possess, the data presented in table 2 constitute probably the most accurate appraisal that has been made of a waterfowl kill by the natives of a wilderness area. Considering the fact that data on the kill by the Indians of the inland posts were not available for the 1947 study, it would appear that despite a great increase in the numbers of Canada geese available to them, the Indians did not appreciably increase their kill in 1954.

What explanation can be given to the apparent stability of the Indian kill? The only reasoning that can be given at present is as follows: The earlier flights of geese arrive in

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the north while the rivers and lakes are still frozen, probably following the rivers as flight lanes to a great extent. The Indians camped near the rivers and lakes, awaiting the breakup, hunt the geese from blinds set out on the river ice and probably thereby intercept the major flights. However, the geese are available to the Indians only between the time of arrival and the first break-up of the interior lakes. (This shift by water-fowl from the rivers to the "interior" at the onset of the first thaw was observed in the Perry River area of the Arctic.) Hence, it would seem that time is the underlying element in controlling the Indian kill; that even when the goose population is fairly low, an Indian can obtain all the geese in a day's hunting that his ability and efficiency will permit. It has been difficult to accept this theory, but it is the only explanation that can be advanced at this time.

The numbers of square miles available to the Indian hunter and the annual kill per band relative to the size of the trapping area, varies considerably. Yet, when the number of square miles per trapper and the number of square miles per goose killed per band trapping area were computed, no consistent relationship could be discerned between these data and the kill per hunter or the annual kill per band area. For these reasons, the average kill per trapper is believed to best indicate the relative availability of geese to the hunter, and hence, to offer a fairly adequate base for deducing the main migration paths of Canada geese through western Ontario. Thus the data in table 2 indicate that the heaviest flights of geese (exclusive of the actual breeding grounds) pass over the Ft. Hope, Landsdowne and Kasabonica band areas; west of these areas the frequency of migrating flocks gradually decreases. The Ft. Hope - Kasabonica flight route, which extends directly northward, is probably used by the bulk of the geese that nest in the vicinity of big bend of the Weenusk River, one of the more important muskeg production centers for geese.

Trapper kill data may not only indicate availability in terms of geese passing over a region, but may also be indicative of locally important stop-over areas where geese are more easily shot. Thus, this factor is also believed to explain the relatively high kill of migrant geese in two of the above band areas. Because the kill of geese is particularly large in the vicinity of Attawapiskat, Mameiguess, Kanuchuan, Winisk and Shibogama Lakes, they are believed to be particularly attractive to migrating geese. Although all of these lakes would be partly ice covered at the time of migration, their highly dendritic conformation and numerous islands would offer greater shelter from the wind than the large open lakes to the west. They possibly also open earlier than lakes which offer an uninterrupted expanse.

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TABLE I - Number of Cree Indian hunters, average bag per hunter, and total calculated bag of Canada geese by native hunters residing in the breeding range of the Mississippi Valley goose population, 1946 and 1947.

Fur Trade Post and Indian Trapping Territory	Total Number of <u>Hunters</u>	Number Hunte Interv	rs	Averag Per H Interv	lunter	Bag	ping
		1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Ogoki	16	16	16	3.0	3.6	48	56
Fort Albany (including Kapiskau and Ghost River outposts).  Attawapiskat <sup>1</sup> (including Lake River outpost and	100	24	67	9•5	11.1	950	1110
Akimiski Island)	134	28	31	13.3	15.6	1782	2090
Weenusk	33	-	31	15.02	19.0	495	627
Fort Severn	47	26	26	14.0	17.0	658	799
TOTAL	330	94	171	65.0	66.3	3933	4682
AVERAGE		-	-	13.0	13.1	-	-

<sup>1 -</sup> The bag at Attawapiskat in 1948 was 1,720 according to Dr. John Honigman, resident anthropologist at the post that year (personal communication).

<sup>2 -</sup> An estimate, based on data for later year.

TABLE II - Number of Indian trappers, average kill per trapper and calculated kills by band trapping areas.

Band Area	Т	rappers		Averag	ge Kill pe	er Trapper	Total Calcu- lated Kill
	No. In Band	Inter- viewed	Per Cent	Fall 1953	Spring 1954	Annual (*53-*54)	
Ft. Severn Weenusk (Sutton Lake) Shamattawa Bearskin Big Trout L. Kasabonica Sachigo Round Lake Big Beaverhouse Landsdowne Pickle Lake Ft. Hope Osnaburgh Island Lakel L. Grand Rapidsl Attawapiskat2 Ft. Albany2 Ogoki Other flyway	37 462 19 44 79 34 50 50 50 65 91 (834+ 106 134+ 106	37 22 (6) 14 36 23 146 41 77 32 673) (11)	100.0 53.7 100	3.6 5.7 0.0 2.1 0.2 0.3 0.0 0.0	15.8 21.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 1.0	19.5 26.8 35.7 1.0+ 1.7+ 2.7+ 1.45 86.54 0.40	722 1161 (214)3 15 50+ 150+ 188 92 85* 73 583 247 163 224 - 29262 11442 602
areas	-	1.65	-	-	-	~	500
TOTAL	932	483					8383

<sup>1 -</sup> Band areas considered to be west of the normal migration routes of the Mississippi Valley Canada geese; data therefore not included in totals.

<sup>2 -</sup> Annual kill estimates interpolated from 1947 and 1954 data for Ft. Severn and Weenusk.

<sup>3 -</sup> Totals are presumably included in Attawapiskat data.

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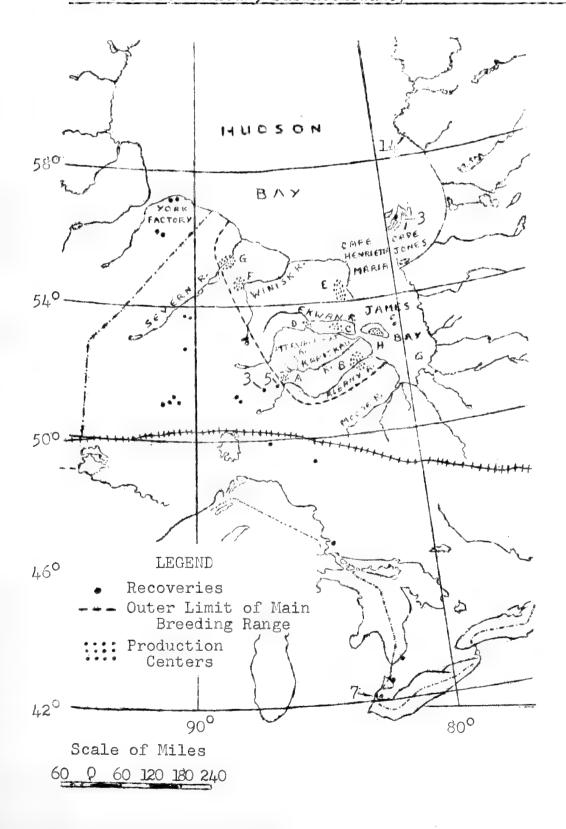
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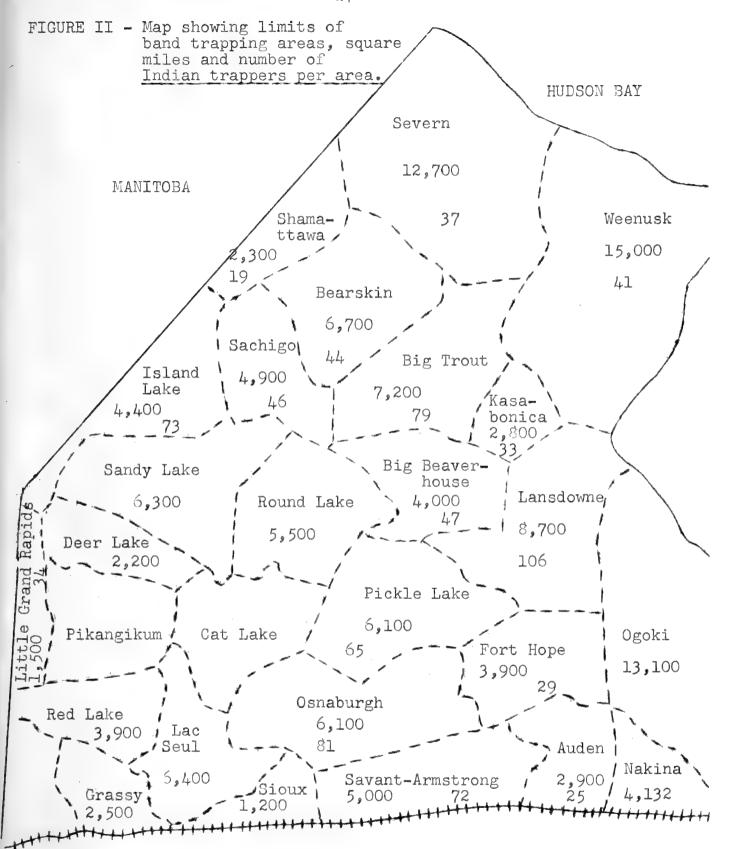
1 - Band areas considered to be well of a second of the Mississippi Valley Janaia gray a second of the included in to als.

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FIGURE I - Location of production centers, limits of the main range of the Mississippi Valley geese, and located recoveries in Canada, 1941-1947, of Canada geese banded at the Horseshoe Lake Game Refuge. Within the main breeding range 217 band recoveries have been made. (Not shown are one recovery from Warren, Manitoba, and one from McLean, Saskatchewan.)



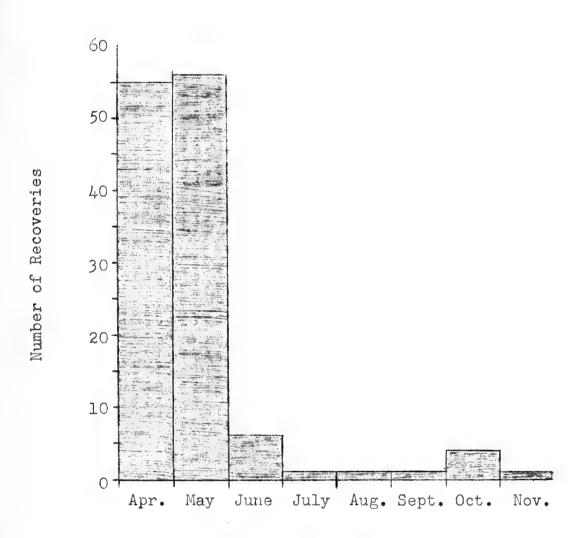


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Band Trapping Areas - Northwestern Ontario

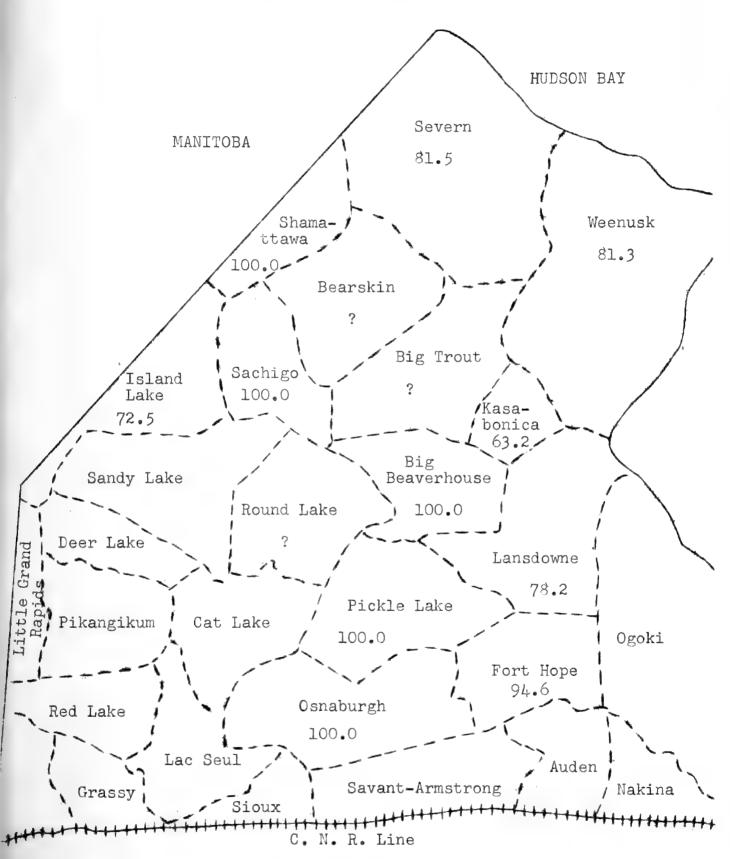


FIGURE III - Time of kill of Canada geese by Indians on the breeding grounds, as shown by recovery records, 1941-1947, of geese banded at the Horseshoe Lake Game Refuge.



Month of Recovery

FIGURE IV - Spring kill of Canada geese expressed as per cent of the total annual kill per band area.



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Band Trapping Areas - Northwestern Ontario

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### WATERFOWL SURVEY IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO, 1950.

by Lester W. Gray

### Introduction

The primary objective of this survey by the Department of Lands and Forests was to locate a suitable area to set up a banding station. No attempt was made to run a complete census, or to take representative samples, and the survey was made by one man working alone. Two regions were picked, and the water within these areas intensively studied to locate breeding concentrations. It was felt that the places used by comparatively large numbers of breeding birds would also be used by the fall flights, as good waterfowl habitat in this part of the province is limited.

### Location of Areas

The areas covered by the study were the District of Thunder Bay, and the District of Rainy River.

Ten water areas were examined in the Thunder Bay District, from Cranberry Bay on Lake Superior at the eastern extreme to Whitefish Lake on the west. About 200 miles of aerial reconnaissance was also flown. Of all areas examined only Whitefish Lake was found to be favourable waterfowl habitat, and this was the only place where breeding birds were found in numbers. Most of the lakes were barren of marsh, and rimmed by rocky or wooded shoreline. It was thought unwise to attempt banding on Whitefish Lake as it was a favourite shooting spot for gunners from Port Arthur and Fort William. In fact, the only place for many miles where duck shooting could be done.

In the District of Rainy River two areas were examined. One consisting of part of the shoreline of Caliper Lake and its tributary Log River, and the other a series of artificial ponds on the private game reserve of Mr. J. A. Mathieu. The former area lies on the Kenora - Fort Frances highway, about four miles south of Nestor Falls. The latter, on the Rainy River, about twelve miles west of Fort Frances.

The better areas were checked, either by shoreline cruising in a canoe, or by walking. Reconnaissance work was done by jeep and aircraft.

### Weather and Water Conditions

The spring and early summer was cold and wet, and rivers and lakes were badly flooded. Rainy River was well above normal as late as the middle of July. Conditions were thus far from ideal for breeding waterfowl.

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Hatching Success and Brood Survival

		CI	ass I	Cla	ss II	Cla	ss III
Area	Species	No. Broods	Ducklings Per Brood	No. Broods	No. Ducklings Broods Per Brood	No. Duckli Broods Per Br	Ducklings Per Brood
Whitefish Lake	Mallard Blacks Ring-neck Am. Golden-eye Unidentified	22112	22 H 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2		1111	1 1 1 1 1	1111
Caliper Lake - Log River	Am. Golden-eye B. W. Teal Unidentified	212	469 400	1 1 1	1 1 1	1 1 1	111
J.A. Mathieu Reserve	Mallard B. W. Teal Unidentified	201	10.0	w~w	400	てかど	000

Ring-neck brood reduced to 6 by Pike while under observation. Golden-eye brood of 9 had only 2 when revisited the same day. One of the remaining 2 taken by Pike while under observation. 湖

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Predation by Northern Pike on diving duck broods in Whitefish Lake is thought to be extremely high. Blacks and Mallards appear to fare better, due to the fact that they remain in the thick, weedy cover along the shore and seldom venture out on the open water where the other species were commonly found. They were thus relatively inaccessible to the predatory fish.

The Caliper Lake area was cruised only once, so little information was obtained regarding brood survival.

On the J. A. Mathieu section, brood survival appeared to be excellent. No large fish were present in these waters.

### Species Composition of the Breeding Population

Area	Species	Total Population	Percent
Whitefish Lake	Blacks Mallard Lesser Scaup Am. Golden-eye Ring-neck B. W. Teal	78 62 41 3 2	41 33 22 2 1 1
Caliper Lake - Log River	Am. Golden-eye Lesser Scaup Ring-neck Canvas-back Mallard B. W. Teal	23 11 1 1 1	62 30 2 2 2 2
Mathieu Reserve #	Mallard B. W. Teal Pintail	17 15 4	47 42 11

\* Most of the birds tallied on this area were females with broods.

### Banding Operations

Traps were operated on the Mathieu Reserve from August 22 until October 7. The following birds were banded: Mallard - 193, Blacks - 14, B. W. Teal - 4, G. W. Teal - 9, Pintail - 1, Baldpate - 1 Pied-billed Grebe - 1.

Some birds were lost due to predation by Horned Owls. Three of these were caught. There was also some evidence to point to the Marsh Hawk as a predator on ducks in this area.

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### Conclusions

Although this part of the province is not considered a good duck producer at best, it is felt that this year was below average. It is also felt that the extremely wet weather and large amount of water available had an adverse effect on trapping, by allowing the birds to scatter over a wider area. Thus the density of birds in the trapping area was less than normal.

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### WATERFOWL SHOOTING AROUND A SMALL SANCTUARY

by D. N. Neill

### Location

Lot 10, Concession I, Yarmouth Township, Elgin County known as the Jones Sanctuary at Dexter.

### Description

This sanctuary comprises a "long" hundred acre farm extending from the north shore of Lake Erie north to the first concession road. A small pond, surrounded by trees and shrubs is situated at the north end of the farm, adjacent to the farm buildings. Waterfowl are fed in a near-by field. At the peak of migration approximately 2,000 geese and several hundred ducks find refuge on the farm. A banding program was carried on for a number of years. Twenty to twenty-five geese and several species of ducks raise broods each summer. The Department of Lands and Forests reimburses the farmer for some of the cost of the supplied food - corn-on-the-cob.

No shooting is permitted within one-half mile of the sanctuary.

### Flight Pattern of the Birds

Almost without exception flight to and from the feeding ground is over the centre of the protected area, directly to the lake. Occasionally, the birds are startled over the water and return to land in disorder, outside the sanctuary area. This puts them within range of the hunters, who are usually concentrated at the top of the steep bank of the lake at the edge of the refuge, during early morning or late evening.

Were it not for poor marksmanship, the bag would be much greater. The element of surprise and confusion apparently affects both birds and hunters alike.

The following statistics are the results of the shooting during the 1955 open season:

Statistics based on checking hunters at the Jones Sanctuary for 30 days during the open season 1955.

1st check Oct. 3, last Dec. 14th	
Possible hunting days - Oct. 1 to Dec. 15	65
Number of days hunters were checked	
(46% of possible hunting days)	30
Total Number of hunters (in 30 days)	515

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## WATERFOWL CAUGHT IN MUSKRAT TRAPS,

KEMPTVILLE DISTRICT, 1955 - 1956

by G. C. Myers and J. B. Dawson

Trapper questionnaires for 1955 and 1956 were analyzed and the following data summarized by Conservation Officer Patrol Areas and totalled for the District.

1. Total number of trappers (including residents and farmers)

2. Number of questionnaires completed.

3. Percent of completed questionnaires returned.

4. Total number of ducks caught.

5. Number of muskrats caught (from completed returns).

6. Muskrats per duck caught.

7. Number of ducks caught, by species.

Since it is thought that many birds die after release from traps, data concerning birds killed and those released were not used in this report.

Patrol Area	No. of Trappers	Forms Completed	% Return	No. of Ducks Caught	No. of Muskrats Caught	Muskrats Per Duck
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	109 123 91 111 91 125 151 248 251	79 45 31 50 65 121 98 156 204	72 36 <b>H</b> 34 <b>H</b> 45 71 96 64 62 81	39 14 6 43 66 114 157 323 311	5,509 2,661 1,745 4,686 4,313 7,029 6,121 12,689 13,205	141 190 291 109 65 61 39 39
District Total	t 1,300	849	70 (ave.)	1,073	<b>57,</b> 958	108 (ave.)

<sup>#</sup> Indicates low return from French-speaking areas.

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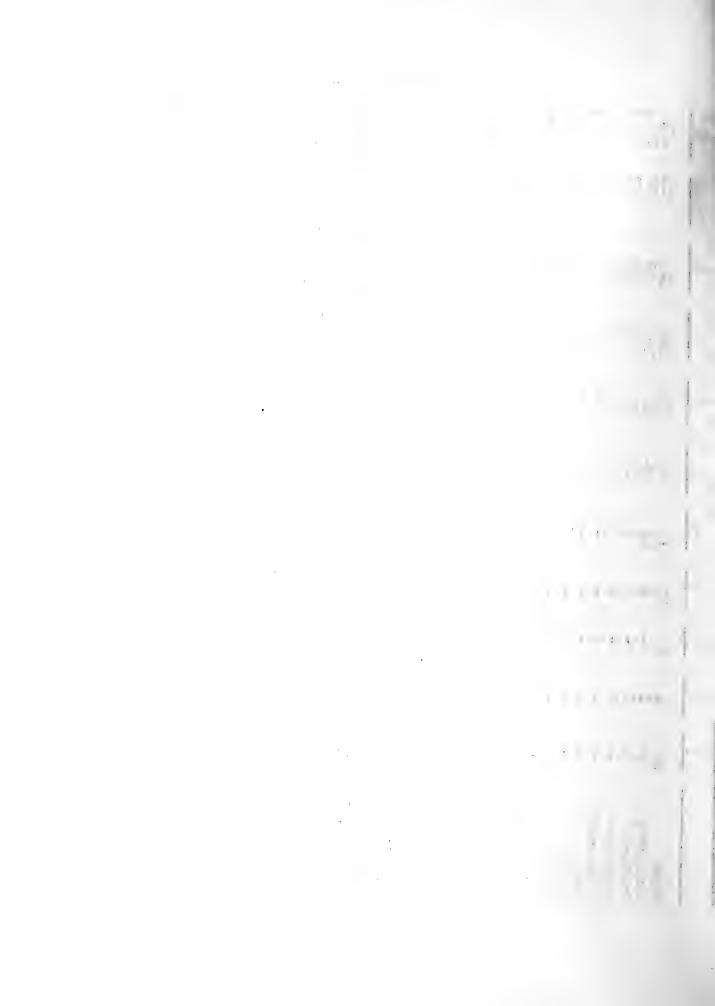
<sup>... 0</sup> 

		<b>-</b> 37	-		
80	40.00 m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m		Muskrats Per Duck	9577 557 557 557 557 557 557 557	74 (ave.)
Total	521 278 82 60 60 21 444 62 62 62				
6	124 289 289 116 21 311	•	Muskrats	1,660 1,661 1,812 1,812 1,863 2,923 2,406 7,476	33,007
100	1088 1088 1089 1088 1088 1088 1088 1088	1.00	No. of Caught		33.
7	157 1.57	0.47	Ducks		
9	20 mm 4 mm 1 0 mm 4 mm 4 mm 6 mm 4 mm 1 0 mm	•	No. of Caught	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	669
5	66 51 21 1 95 5	v • ○	Percent Return	94C 94C	(ave.)
4	100 21 1 1 1 1 2 6 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	4	Per	00000000000000000000000000000000000000	72
2	9111111110	0	Seted	101 444 33 91 59 76 76 76 176 200	2]
2	44401111044	7	Forms	2 H 2 H 2	82.
-1	93 4 1 1 1 1 1 4 6 8	J	No. of Trappers	105 131 131 108 108 69 84 203 223	1,098
	duck ard anser en-eye p ead ead entified	cenc	No		
	Black Wood duck Mallard Merganser Golden-eye Scaup Teal Redhead Unidentified	1956	Patrol Area	しるとようらできり	District Total

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Indicates low return from French-speaking areas. H,



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	1		m	7	5		7		6	Total	69
Black Wood duck Mallard Merganser Golden-eye Scaup Teal Redhead Unidentified	155 31 11 1 1 2 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	011111500	11111111	444611414	00411110	1272	777 777 777 777 777 777 777 777 777 77	11 448 12 10 10 10 11	65 448 22 22 11 11 7	319 171 444 466 30 30 71	24 24 20 10 10 10 10 10
Total	67	14	12	21	29		128		170	669	100
Per Cent	7.0	7.0 2.0	1.7	3.0	4.2		18.2		24.3		100

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Trappers returning completed questionnaires caught a total of 1,073 ducks in 1955 and 699 in 1956.

If those returning questionnaires constitute a good sample of all district trappers, then the above totals can be corrected, for all trappers, to read 1,536 and 970 for 1955 and 1956, respectively.

The sizeable difference in total ducks caught and in muskrats per duck caught between the two years is thought to be caused by the very poor trapping conditions prevailing in 1956.

Except for the above differences, data for the two years show a striking similarity.

The above tables indicate that:

- Questionnaires were completed by 70% of all trappers in 1955 and by 72% in 1956.

- Muskrats caught by trappers returning completed questionnaires represented 73% of all muskrats caught in 1955 and 71% in 1956.

- Black Ducks and Wood Ducks constituted over 70% of all ducks caught each year.

- The percentage of each species caught varied very little from year to year.

- The percentage of ducks caught in each patrol area also varied very little from year to year.

The attached map shows the percentage distribution of ducks caught in the various patrol areas. It can be seen that the greatest number of ducks are caught in the western part of the district. Ducks caught in patrol areas 6 - 9 constituted 84% of all ducks caught in 1955 and 82% in 1956. This percentage distribution agrees very closely with the percentage of muskrats taken in each patrol area and is directly correlated with the amount of aquatic habitat available.

Trappers in patrol areas 2 and 3 are predominately French-speaking and the return of completed trapper questionnaires was very poor from these areas.

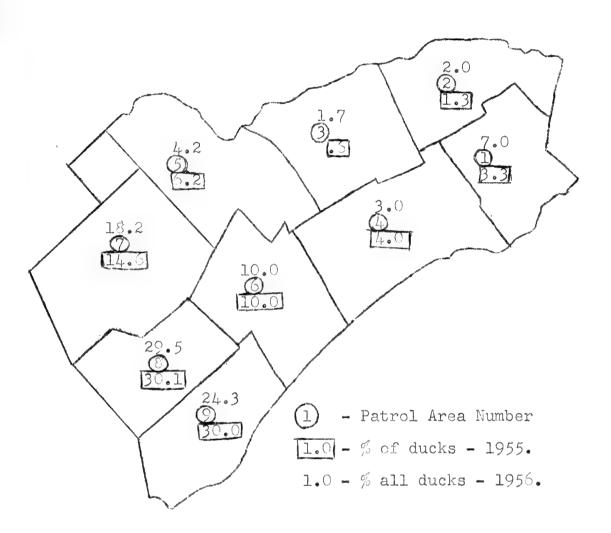
To improve this situation, questionnaires in French may be distributed to these trappers in the future.

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#### KEMPTVILLE DISTRICT

Waterfowl Caught in Muskrat Traps, 1955 and 1956.



Map shows percent of total ducks caught by patrol areas, 1955 and 1956.



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# LUTHER MARSH GAME BAG CENSUS REPORT

OCTOBER 6TH., 1956.

by J. F. Gage

Luther Marsh is situated on the county line between the Counties of Wellington and Dufferin in West and East Luther Townships. The area was purchased by the Grand River Commission. The swamp was created when a flood control dam was constructed providing some three thousand (3,000) acres of inundated swamp land. Its main purpose is to control floods. The use of this area by ducks has probably given the project more publicity than has flood control. Each year, particularly on opening day, hundreds of hunters flock to the Luther Marsh, as it is popularly known, to participate in the duck hunt.

This year seven entry points to the marsh were established as checking points. Department of Lands and Forests personnel with eight Ontario Agricultural College students were present to check the duck harvest and to maintain duck hunting regulations.

Special effort was made to contact each hunter before he entered the marsh, informing him of the legal opening and closing time. The time taken was very worthwhile since there were only five infractions of shooting before 12:00 o'clock noon. Five hunters were charged with violations of the hunting regulations after the evening shoot.

A total of 589 hunters was checked with 613 ducks. Black Ducks were plentiful and accounted for 26.5% of the total. Mallards were a very close second with 25.2%. These two species make up about half of the total. Green-winged Teal 16.3% and Blue-winged Teal at 10.4% make a strong percentage for the Teal family. It can be readily seen that the Blacks, Mallards and Teal provide the bulk of the duck harvest on opening day at the Luther Marsh. Their numbers account for more than 75% of the total ducks shot.

Other species provide a mixed bag of lesser importance but of great interest to many hunters. In order of occurrence in the bag they were: Pintails, Ruddy Ducks, Bluebills, Baldpates, Ring-necked Ducks, Redheads, Wood Ducks, Gadwalls and Hooded Mergansers. One Canvas-back was checked and 35 Coots or Mud Hens. A great many of the latter are shot in mistake for ducks. They are legal game and are said to be good eating when properly prepared.

Some species will make a greater contribution to the harvest as the weather becomes colder and migrant ducks work south.

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Luther Marsh Game Bag Census Report, Oct. 6th., 1956.

Species	₫	<u>Q</u>	Not Sexed	Total	Percent
Black Duck Mallard Green-winged Teal Blue-winged Teal Pintail Ruddy Duck Bluebill Baldpate Ring-neck Redhead Wood Duck Gadwall Hooded Merganser Canvas-back Coots	18 11 36 04 02 03 11	61 15 10 47 16 31 2	163 36 100 3 93 55 31 40 3	163 155 100 64 22 13 12 10 9 6 5 5 3 1 35	26.23 10.45 1964 1988 11.7

Hunters Checked	589
Ducks Checked	613
Ducks Per Hunter	1.04
Ducks Lost	182
Ducks Found	8
Parties Using Dogs	17
Parties Not Using Dogs	193

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#### MOURNING DOVE ROAD COUNTS

## by L. J. Stock

The following is a summary of the Mourning Dove Road Counts carried out during the month of September 1956, in the Lake Erie District, by members of the field staff and District Office personnel.

County		of Dov	Miles	Birds/Mile		
	Flocks of 3 or More	Pairs	Singles	Total		
Welland Haldimand Haldimand) Norfolk)	123 73 1,516	34 22 18	37 27 42	194 122 1,576	951 393 881	0.20 0.31 1.79
Norfolk Elgin Elgin Middlesex)	37 33 3	18 20 2	20 71 9	75 124 14	639 324 347	0.11 0.38 0.04
Middlesex ) Caradoc Twp.)		22	30	52	45	1.16
Elgin-Kent Kent (Dover Twp) Kent Lambton Essex	6 7 119 935	4 8 14 54 188	12 12 6 12 95	22 27 20 185 1,218	38 85 47 1,044 330	0.58 0.32 0.43 0.18 3.69
Totals	2,852	404 202 p	373 ers.	3,629	5,124	0.705

Percent of birds in flocks - 79

Largest Flock Norfolk County - Townsend Township - 1,000.

Highest Count per mile - Essex - 3.69.

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### REPORT ON 1956 TRIP TO THE SLATE ISLANDS

# by H. G. Cumming

Purpose: To carry out the annual check on the caribou population of the Slate Islands.

Members of Party: J. B. McKenzie, Conservation Officer, H. G. Cumming, Biologist.

#### Itinerary:

- July 9 Travelled from Geraldton to the Slate Islands via Pays Plat. Set up camp opposite McCall Island near a known caribou crossing.
- July 10 Walked to Silver Lake and past two beaver ponds to Horace Cove, thence to Lawrence Bay and camp.
- July 11 Morning lost due to accident. Spent afternoon trying to observe caribou from canoe.
- July 12 Followed old trail to Sunday Harbour. Returned by boat.
- July 13 Unable to work due to rain. Attempted to see caribou along the shore from canoe.
- July 14 Walked to Mud Lake, thence to northeast corner of Patterson Island, back to old lumber camp on McGreevy Harbour, to Mud Lake again and returned to camp.
- July 15 Collected plants by old lumber camp. Walked to Silver Lake and back.
- July 16 Returned to Pays Plat.

## Observations of Caribou:

### Caribou seen or heard

July 9th, 1956: A caribou was heard, then sighted on McCall Island across from camp. It walked along the shore, stopped several times to put its nose in the water. It turned and licked itself, straightened, then licked again. Antlers were about 4 inches long and in the velvet. It walked on a short distance, then broke into a trot through the shallow water along the shore. It was very dark, greyish rather than brownish. There was a faint white collar.

16.55: The caribou disappeared around a small point of the shore, but reappeared 30 seconds later. It walked on for a short distance, stopped to look across the water, walked on and paused apparently

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to browse some low growing plants among the bushes along the shore. After browsing for perhaps 30 seconds, it walked on (east) and, with one more pause to look across the lake, disappeared around the point at 17.02 hours.

July 10th, 16.30: A caribou was sighted at the end of Lawrence Bay. When followed it would run only a short distance and then stop. It was sighted three different times before it disappeared altogether. After that, although we hurried forward, we could see no further sign of it. No antlers were visible.

July 11th, 14.45: A caribou swam up to shore by the camp while the aircraft was there and four people were sitting around talking. It swam with head high and rump out of the water. When it reached shore, about 30 feet from camp, it stood there for a short while shaking itself intermittently, but it left before a picture could be taken. It was brown with a very dark head. No antlers were visible.

July 12th, 13.00: A caribou was heard near a small lake east of Sunday Harbour. It was seen by McKenzie who surprised it near the lake. He watched for a moment until it walked into the bush, at which time he went down the trail past it, and attempted to drive it back. He saw it once more. It was fairly light in colour. No antlers were seen.

- 13.15: While we were eating lunch, a caribou came up the trail and went off into the bush just before reaching our position. This was probably the same caribou as the one just described.
- 13.38: While proceeding toward Sunday Harbour, a caribou was sighted in the bush. It was dark brown with about 6 inch antlers. When we crouched down and made chirping noises, it turned and came back toward us in an attempt to discover the source of the noise.
- 13.45: A caribou was seen at some distance through the trees. It just stood facing away from us for a moment, then wandered off paying no attention to our chirping. It was a lighter brown in colour and had antlers with forked knobs about 18 inches long. This was only a short distance from Sunday Harbour.
- July 14th, 12.15: A caribou was sighted near Mud Lake. It came back three times when chirped at, enabling the taking of two pictures. It then circled and disappeared. McKenzie, who was some distance off, also glimpsed a caribou through the trees. It was believed to be the same one.
- July 15th, 13.15: A caribou was sighted swimming toward the shore near camp from the direction of McCall Island. It landed on the shore about 50 feet east of the camp and walked straight into the woods. It was dark brown and no antlers were noticed.
- 16.10: A caribou was heard near the trail to Silver Lake. It was not seen.

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16.45: A caribou was heard near Silver Lake. It sounded as if it were knocking its antlers on trees. It was glimpsed a couple of times by McKenzie but no details could be discerned.

#### Caribou Tracks

July 10th, 09.30: Fresh caribou tracks and droppings were seen at the west end of McGreevy Harbour. The animal had been heading northeast around the end of the bay.

16.38: Caribou calf tracks were found in the sand on the east shore of Lawrence Bay. They were about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

July 12th, 14.00: Caribou calf tracks were seen near Sunday Harbour.

Many more adult caribou tracks were seen but not recorded.

#### Caribou Remains

July 12th, 16.00: A bleached jaw from a caribou that was reported to have fallen off a cliff in the winter or spring of 1955, and the carcass of a caribou which apparently fell off the same cliff a few feet distant in the winter or spring of 1956 were found on the south shore of Sunday Harbour. The cliff was a bald, rounded height, directly across the point from the lighthouse. The carcass of the second animal lay where it had landed with a rib still bent over the rock on which it had broken. The animal was about 25 or 30 feet from the base of the cliff. Although there was an over-hang of several feet the distance of the carcass from the base of the cliff seemed hard to explain. It appeared that it might have been running or had jumped, for the carcass was facing directly away from the cliff and had landed feet down.

It was almost entirely decomposed, with only pieces of hide still hanging on the bones. It was related by the lighthouse keeper that the complete skeleton of the other animal had been there the previous year and that a piece of moss had been torn off the rock above where it had fallen over. The jaws of both animals were collected.

17.00: Guided by the lighthouse keeper, we located another caribou carcass on the north shore of Sunday Harbour on a gravel beach. He reported that it was well up near the bush line when he had first seen it, but that the waves had moved it to its present position about two-thirds of the way toward the water. It was slightly more decomposed than the other carcass but was also a casualty of last winter. The jaw was collected and a casual examination showed that it was a calf. This looked very much like starvation as it was found on a south facing slope at the tree line where a starving animal would come for a little additional warmth.

A left antler and a right antler from different animals were picked up by the lighthouse people and given to us. Another right antler was found on July 15th on the trail back from Silver Lake. These were all brought back to Geraldton.

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#### Additional Information on Caribou:

Anglers encountered during the trip were questioned concerning the numbers of caribou which they had seen. Some who had been coming to the islands for some years claimed that they were seeing considerably fewer caribou this year. Several other fishermen stated that they had been over to the islands fishing several times this year but had seen no caribou. These reports contrasted with the three observations which we made on the shore.

Some anglers reported that they saw two caribou on the shore of McCall Island on July 14th while we were away from camp. These two were the first they had seen this year.

Two watchmen for a log boom which was being held in McGreevy Harbour reported that they had seen only about one-half dozen caribou since they had taken up residence there in May.

The lighthouse keeper reported that one of the children had seen five caribou, including one calf, near the small lake just east of Sunday Harbour, a few days before our arrival. He said that each fall a large caribou came down and ate the flowers out of their garden and was quite tame. He also reported that he had found the fore foot of a young one about the same size as that of the second carcass which we found, near the base of the lighthouse cliff. His helper also found a whole carcass on the east side of the lighthouse that he did not think had fallen off any cliff. He promised to try to collect the jaw and send it to us.

#### Observations of Other Animals:

#### Beaver:

July 10th, 11.18: A mountain ash was found cut by beaver on a hill top.

11.30: A double beaver dam (one just below the other) was located at the southwest end of a small pond in the Mud Lake chain. The dams, which had apparently been built last fall, were holding water and there were fresh cuttings on them. Some of the surrounding trees had been killed by the flooding.

A short distance from the above pond was a second pond, which also had signs of beaver around it. No very fresh cuttings were found. Most of the signs were from late fall or early spring.

July 14th, 12.10: A beaver dam was found at the southwest end of what was believed to be Mud Lake. No mud was visible in the lake due to the flooding by the beaver.

#### Fox:

July 10th, 15.15: A fox burrow was found near a small lake in the southwestern part of Patterson Island. Two more burrows were found

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immediately afterward, one of which was probably leading to the same den, and the other about 50 yards away. Since there were no fresh tracks after the recent rain, it was impossible to tell whether or not they were still occupied, or how old they were.

#### Snowshoe Hare:

July 10th, 10.30: Snowshoe hare browse on birch was found near Silver Lake.

July 12th, 09.30: Snowshoe hare was seen by an old lumber camp on McGreevy Harbour.

July 15th, 14.00: Snowshoe hare was startled from brush surrounding the old lumber camp on McGreevy Harbour.

16.00: Young snowshoe hare was captured on the trail to Silver Lake. It was held for pictures then released. It was just nicely able to hop around on its own.

#### Merganser:

July 11th, 16.00: Merganser with 7 downy young was seen in Lawrence Bay.

July 13th, 18.45: A small merganser was found by itself in Lawrence Bay. An attempt was made to catch it with the canoe, but was thwarted by a gull which swooped down and, after one miss, caught the small duck by the back of the neck and flew off with it. The gull landed on a small island and swallowed the duck whole.

Many adult mergansers were seen.

### Other Birds:

July 14th, 12.15: Two brown creepers landed on a tree near Mud Lake.

July 15th, 16.15: A young white-throated sparrow was seen on the trail to Silver Lake. It could fly short distances, but its tail was still short. There were many white-throated sparrows in evidence on the Slate Islands.

## Mammals Missing:

The following is a list of the mammals which are present on the mainland, but for which no evidence has been found on the Slate Islands: moose, deer, bear, wolf, lynx, fisher, marten, otter, mink, weasel, skunk, porcupine, squirrel, chipmunk, muskrat, mice and shrews. It is hoped that this list can be reduced as more evidence becomes available. Ten traps were set out one night and twenty were set out another night around McGreevy Harbour, all in what appeared to be excellent small mammal habitat, with no catch of any kind. However, there are some small mammals present on the island for the lighthouse keeper reported that some were around the lighthouse buildings.

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#### Conclusions and Recommendations:

- 1. There was no marked change in the caribou populations from that of the past two years. Of the eleven observations of caribou made, not more than three could have been repeat observations.
- 2. There is still caribou reproduction on the islands. Tracks of two calves were seen,
- 3. At least four caribou died last winter. One death was caused by the animal falling off a cliff; one could very well be due to starvation, and the cause of the other two deaths is unknown.

This is the second year that an adult caribou has been known to fall off a cliff in Sunday Harbour. Since it is a high, bare rounded rock, there is no apparent reason why the caribou should be up there. Also, the animal that died last winter appeared to have jumped or run off the cliff. Since there are no large predators on the islands, no explanation could be found.

4. The ages of the jaws collected, as determined by analogy with deer jaws, were as follows:

The age of the calf indicates that it must have died in the fall of 1955, probably in December.

5. Both tree and ground lichens are very hard to find on the Slate Islands. The contrast between the plentiful supply of lichens observed on St. Ignace and neighboring islands the following week, and the very few seen on the Slate Islands was quite striking.

It was most evident when walking through similar timber types on St. Ignace and on the Slates. This scarcity, together with the possible starvation case found, leads to the belief that the present population on the Slate Islands may still be above the winter carrying capacity. It is probable that the continuous utilization of the lichens by large herds has greatly reduced the carrying capacity of the islands over what it once was.

- 6. Another example of a behaviour trait in caribou similar to that found in white-tailed deer was noticed. The curiosity exhibited by caribou when surprised in the woods and when chirped at by a hidden observer is practically identical with that displayed by white-tailed deer. Two caribou were attracted to within 30 or 40 feet by this method.
- 7. The only rodents that were found on the Slate Islands were beaver which had established colonies in three places. Snowshoe hares appeared to be increasing.

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- 8. In the fall of 1953 a plan was put forward for moving caribou from the Slate Islands to Michipicoten Island. This plan was never carried out for the following reasons:
  - 1. There were too many agencies involved. Each one waited for somebody else to start something.
  - 2. The plan put forward was only a general one with not enough detailed solutions to the problems involved.
  - 3. There was no really satisfactory method suggested for capturing the caribou.
  - 4. There was the problem concerning methods of holding and transporting.
  - 5. There was a question as to whether the population of caribou on the Slate Islands warranted such a move.
  - 6. There was a problem as to the best time of year to carry it out.

This year's investigation has led to the conclusion that there are still too many caribou on the Slate Islands considering the poor winter food supply available. At least four caribou died last winter without having any noticeable effect on the population. These facts lead to the belief that six caribou could be removed with no harm to the herd, and quite possibly with some good.

Since caribou appear and behave so much like white-tailed deer, it is believed that six caribou could be caught without too much difficulty in box-type deer traps. The traps might have to be slightly enlarged. Caribou are not particularly "wild" animals, and could probably be held in small corrals. With these considerations in mind, the following plan is put forward.

During the month of November when rutting is pretty well finished and caribou have changed to a winter diet, three box traps could be set up on the Slate Islands. A small corral could be built to hold any catches. The traps could be baited and the animals fed with lichens gathered earlier from good sources in other places. Once set up, the traps could be operated by a field party of two or three men.

If the traps worked well and six caribou were caught, they could be placed in small carrying crates and shipped by means of a rented fishing tug to Michipicoten Island. There they could be met and unloaded by men from the White River District. It might be necessary to supply them with supplementary food during the first winter. That could be handled from White River.

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The cost of such a project would be small and could be split between the Geraldton and White River Districts. Geraldton District could pay for the traps, carrying crates and field parties on the Slate Islands. White River could pay for the boat rental and any winter feeding necessary. If no caribou were caught, only the cost of the traps and the field party would be lost.

Although the caribou would be easier to handle in summer, they would also be harder to catch. Trapping them in November would alleviate the winter food problem and perhaps prevent some winter mortality.

If this project were approved, the only preparation needed would be the collection of lichens in both White River and Geraldton Districts before the snow falls, and the construction of the traps and crates. If six caribou were not considered to be a large enough planting, another six could be transported next year.

If White River District is agreeable to this proposal and if it is cleared by Head Office, there is no reason why it should not be undertaken this November.

#### Summary:

- 1. The week of July 9th to 16th was spent on the Slate Islands in making an annual check on the caribou population.
- 2. A total of 12 observations of caribou was made.
- 3. Tracks of two calves were seen.
- 4. Jaws from a caribou which had died a year ago, and from two which had died last winter, were collected. At least two more caribou are known to have died last winter.
- 5. Anglers reported seeing less caribou this year. The significance of this report is not known.
- 6. Beaver have definitely been re-established on Patterson Island. Foxes are present and snowshoe hares seem to be increasing.
- 7. Mergansers, gulls, brown creepers and white-throated sparrows were the only birds recorded.
- 8. A list of the mammals which do not appear to be present on the Slate Islands is included.
- 9. A new plan for catching and transplanting some caribou from the Slate Islands to Michipicoten Island is put forward.

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# REPORT ON A WINTER MARTEN-TRAPPING PROJECT, WHITE RIVER DISTRICT.

# by E. A. Pozzo

On January 28th, 1956, Joseph Beattie and Doug Morris of the Department of Lands and Forests, Province of Nova Scotia arrived to start a Live Trapping Project to obtain Marten and Fisher for restocking in Nova Scotia.

January 30th, started to set live traps in the White River portion of the Chapleau Game Preserve east of Mosher in the area being cut by the Newaygo Company. The camps of this company were used as headquarters.

Forty-seven traps were available for this project, consisting of thirty-five large traps and twelve small traps. Sizes of large traps:  $-32^n \times 9\frac{1}{2}^n \times 9\frac{1}{2}^n$ . Sizes of small traps:  $-24^n \times 6\frac{1}{2}^n \times 6\frac{1}{2}^n$ .

Due to this being a winter trapping project extreme caution was necessary in setting and tending traps in order that we experience no loss of animals due to exposure to the cold weather or from being in traps for too long a period.

### Setting of Traps

A layer of spruce boughs was first laid on the snow at trap site, then trap was set and completely covered with boughs to form a very snug cubby. This sheltered animal from cold and snow and was believed to be a great factor in precluding loss of animals during project.

All traps were tended the first thing in the morning.

### Bait Used

Consisted of Dr. Ballards dog food, beaver, beef and sardines. Beaver castor was used for scent.

Best results came from the beaver and beef baits rubbed with beaver castor. Sardines froze and no luck was had with them.

Due to cold weather very little scent was given off by these frozen baits. Baits which were rubbed with beaver castor held scent for a few days. Since very little scent came from baits marten would often by-pass traps apparently without being attracted.

All bait was tied on bottom of traps to ensure that no Canada Jays, Squirrels or mice could take bait out of trap.

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Foxes would come to the traps but would only look in and then leave.

Throughout only eight Canada Jays and one Squirrel were caught in traps.

Temperatures were a great factor. When temperature dropped animals were not very active but when it rose animals were very active. On February 19th., the temperature rose to 10 degrees above zero. This was the warmest night during the project and 6 marten were trapped that night.

One Fisher was trapped. Fisher seemed to be very shy with all the camp activities going on and they seemed to get back further in the woods, this was not so with the Marten which did not seem to mind all this.

Traps were strung out for a distance of 12 miles requiring considerable effort to give them daily attention.

Animals trapped on this project were 18 Marten and 1 Fisher.

Catch and temperature data are as follows:-

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### INTRODUCTION OF CARP INTO ONTARIO

by Anonymous

The following item is taken from the "Markham Economist and Sun", July 5, 1956, Volume 101, No. 1, which reviews a century and is a reprint of an article appearing in the Markham Economist, a family newspaper devoted especially to the interests of the country, July 1, 1880:

### "PISCICULTURE Economist, July 1, 1880.

Messrs. Samuel and B. F. Reesor of Cedar Grove have an excellent artificial fish breeding pond and have for some time been in search of a prolific fish that would answer our mill pond waters. Their study of natural history has been earnest and long, and has been rewarded in their selecting the German Carp. The next trouble was to get the fish, as there was none nearer than the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. Prof. Baird, president, could only distribute on recommendation of some member of Congress. Through the kindly introduction of Mr. Buell, of Rochester, N.Y. to that prince of Isaac Waltons, Seth Green, ten Carp were secured. Mr. B. F. Reesor returned from Caledonia, N.Y. on Friday last bringing his trophies. These are the first Carp that have ever been brought to Ontario. Should they prove half as prolific and as good for their country by the introduction of Carp, under the difficulties of getting them, then four hundred such politicians as the Dominion Member of Parliament for East York, and our children's great grandchildren will bless the day that the Reesors did a little carping."

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# WINTER SEARCH FOR OUANANICHE, ATHELSTANE AND CLIFF LAKES, PORT ARTHUR DISTRICT.

by R. A. Ryder

Since the 1953 planting of ouananiche in Athelstane Lake, two summer and one fall netting surveys have failed to reveal whether the fish have survived or not, and if so, their location in the lake. As the netting surveys covered only that strata of water within five feet of the bottom in various water depths, and as ouananiche are said to be somewhat pelagic, at least at certain times of the year, it is believed that bottom set gill nets could possibly fail to enmesh any of these fish even though lake trout and other species were caught in quantity.

In the fall of 1955 an excess of ouananiche breeding stock was introduced into Cliff Lake, a deep oligotrophic lake where small lake trout produce but poor fishing at best. It was not intended that these fish become established as most of the 1,000 planted fish were immature males. Since the planting several people heard rumors about salmon being caught in Cliff Lake. Similar rumors were heard regarding Athelstane Lake and Moda Lake, a small lake connected to Athelstane at the northeast corner by a shallow stream about one-quarter of a mile in length. These rumors were the deciding factors on a proposed winter survey of these two lakes in an effort to locate the ouananiche. In both instances the purported method of capture was employed; i.e. fishing with lines through the ice, employing live minnows as bait.

### Athelstane Lake

February 27 to 29 inclusive were spent in fishing Athelstane and Moda Lakes. The first day was devoted to Moda, the remaining two days to Athelstane.

The most common types of minnows sold by bait dealers in the Lakehead were used, namely two species of dace, Margariscus and Chrosomus. These minnows were small, ranging up to three inches in length. Waters from four feet in depth up to fifty feet were fished. The baited hooks were set one foot under the ice, one foot off the bottom, and at various intervals between surface and bottom.

No fish were caught in Moda Lake although one fish broke a 25lb. test steel leader. This was presumed to be one of the large pike which are known to occur in this lake. It is doubtful if ouananiche could survive in this lake in the summer as the maximum depth is fifteen feet and the habitat appears entirely unsuitable, being weedy with a muck bottom.

Athelstane Lake proper, was fished in as many variabletype habitat situations as time allowed. Two days' fishing produced only pike and lake trout, all taken on lines set one foot from the bottom.

The results from the Athelstane winter fishing survey are not conclusive, as the time spent fishing could cover only a small portion of the expanse of the lake. It is recommended that surface, sub-surface and oblique gill net sets be tried in spring or early summer, in an attempt to take the pelagic ouananiche. The fishing public should be made aware of the plantings and rumors of salmon catches checked. As Athelstane Lake is an hour's walk from the nearest bush road plus a second hour's walk to favorable fishing sites, few fishermen have bothered with it since its opening on January 1, 1956. However, with the advent of summer fishing, it is quite likely that the lake will be subjected to heavier angling pressure, with the corresponding increased possibility of a ouananiche catch.

Conservation Officers E. J. Swift and Paul Odorizzi assisted in the surveys of Athelstane and Moda Lakes.

### Cliff Lake

This lake is situated three miles from a main camp road. It is heavily fished on week-ends although catches are usually poor. Lake trout were originally the only species sought and these generally range between 8" and 14". The largest trout reported from this lake is under three pounds in weight.

On March 6, 1956 a survey similar to that in Athelstane Lake was attempted in Cliff Lake in an effort to: (1) determine if the salmon had survived, (2) obtain stomachs of any available salmon for analyses of contents, (3) try to secure more information on habits and preferred environmental conditions of the salmon.

Four holes were cut through the ice leading out from a precipitous rock adjacent to the shoreline, to the approximate centre of the lake. Water depths ranged from 20° to over 100°. Lines were set one foot from bottom, and four, eight, and twelve feet under the ice surface. A total of nine ouananiche and one lake trout were caught in the day's fishing. Six salmon were caught in the hole nearest to shore, one each being caught in the other holes. Eight feet beneath the ice was judged to be the optimum depth for fishing. Salmon were also caught at four foot and twelve foot intervals but with less frequency than at the eight foot depth. In all cases the fish were caught on live minnows, but only after agitation of them by the hand. Upon being caught, some of the fish demonstrated a tendency to head toward the surface rather than bore down and put tension on the line. This probably corresponds with their habit of breaking water when caught during the open water season. One fish followed a baited hook being drawn in to the surface where it suddenly took the bait. At the

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eight foot interval beneath the ice surface, one small lake trout was also caught.

Stomach samples revealed no distinguishable food beyond the bait minnows being used in fishing. It is not likely that these minnows are native to this lake. More than one-half of the stomachs were empty. The remainder bore only well digested food taken quite a while previous to the survey. The salmon which ranged from 14" to 20", all appeared to be in good condition.

It is recommended that a further study of this lake be completed in the summertime in an effort to make a more definite determination of the suitability of the lake for the fish. At this time food habits and growth will be more easily established. Evidences of spawning should also be checked during the fall run, and the possibility of the lake being used for reproduction assessed.

To date nine ouananiche have been caught in Cliff Lake by anglers and an additional nine on the survey. The lake shows some promise of at least providing put-and-take fishing. Many anglers are enthused about the prospects of establishing the salmon in some lake in the District. As one angler put it, "I'd rather catch one good salmon than ten lake trout."

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# FISH TAGGING STUDIES IN WHITEFISH BAY LAKE OF THE WOODS IN 1954 AND 1955

by J. M. Fraser

Whitefish Bay is the eastern portion of Lake of the Woods and although it is over 100 square miles in area it is connected to the main body of Lake of the Woods only by several narrow channels at its northwest extremity. This body of water is very irregular in outline and contains hundreds of various sized bays and islands. The larger bays and islands have received various names.

Whitefish Bay is one of the deeper areas of Lake of the Woods and depths to 200 feet have been found. There is, however, an extensive area of shallow water as well. The deeper water contains an abundant whitefish population and a moderate lake trout population. In the shallower water pickerel, pike, bass, muskie and black crappie are taken.

This body of water is probably the most heavily fished of all the waters in the Kenora District. A concentration of some forty commercial tourist camps and hundreds of private summer camps are located in the general area. Whitefish Bay has been closed to commercial fishing since 1936 but in 1954 a small pound net fishery for whitefish was started.

Each fall the Kenora Hatchery fishes 3-5 pound nets in Lobstick Bay (see map) to obtain whitefish eggs for culture at the hatchery. Since fish were readily available from this operation a tagging project was begun in the fall of 1954 and continued in 1955. Whitefish, lake trout and pickerel have been tagged and released and the following is an account of this study.

### Pickerel Tagging Studies

During the period October 18-20, 1954 four hundred and sixty pickerel were tagged and released from pound nets in Lobstick Bay. The tag used was a monel metal strap type (National Band and Tag Co.) bearing a serial number and ONT stamped on it. The tag was attached to the right operculum by means of special tagging pliers. The average total length of eighty-nine measured pickerel was 17 inches. Scale samples were taken from these fish but age determinations have not yet been made.

Of the 460 tagged pickerel released in October, 1954 eleven (2.4%) were recovered during the summer and fall of 1955. Ten of these recaptures were reported by anglers and one was caught in nets set off the Indian Reserve on Regina Bay. The small number of returns demonstrates a dispersion of the pickerel after tagging. Three were caught in Regina Bay several miles from the tagging site, three were taken at the mouth of Berry Creek

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several miles in an opposite direction and two were reported caught at Whitefish Narrows, twelve miles west of the tagging site. The location reported for the other three tags was "Whitefish Bay" which covers a considerable area.

The 2.4% return of tags will require some interpretation and speculation. There was a seven month period (October 1954 -May 1955) after tagging during which the pickerel were not available to angling. If the 450 pickerel remained alive and retained their tags through this period then the 2.4% caught by anglers would denote the exploitation this population received in one summer by angling. However, we have reason to believe from our studies in the Winnipeg River and from reference to studies elsewhere (Churchill, 1955) that a high percentage of the tags attached to the operculum are lost several months after tagging. If this is the case in Whitefish Bay, and it probably is, then the exploitation of pickerel by anglers is considerably higher than our returns indicate. In the fall of 1955 a number of pickerel were tagged with jaw tags and the expected returns in the coming 1956 season should give a more accurate picture of the exploitation by angling.

### Whitefish Tagging Studies

Although Whitefish Bay probably contains the largest whitefish population of any of the areas of Lake of the Woods it has been closed to commercial fishing since 1936. A small pound net fishery was established in 1954 to harvest some of this whitefish population. The Kenora hatchery collects its whitefish eggs mainly in the Lobstick Bay area.

The main purpose of this whitefish tagging study was to determine the extent of movement of these fish. Some of the commercial fishermen in the main part of Lake of the Woods believe that the main lake is constantly being replenished by whitefish from Whitefish Bay.

Over the period October 18-November 11, 1954 five hundred whitefish were tagged and released from the hatchery nets in Lobstick Bay (see map). The tag was a small plastic disc containing a serial number and Ont. Dept. of Lands & Forests stamped on it. This tag was sewn to the whitefish immediately in front of the dorsal fin by means of 6 lb. test monafiliament nylon line. (This method has been used extensively in other studies on whitefish and lake trout in Ontario and has proved to be efficient for these species).

After tagging, the fish were measured (total length) and scale samples were removed before releasing from the net. The size distribution of tagged whitefish is presented in Table I. Age determinations have not as yet been made.

Of the 500 whitefish tagged and released only four have been reported as recaptured. One of these fish was caught by a commercial fisherman off Chisholm Island a distance of some twenty

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n de la filozofia de la casa de la constituir dipenso en la califactoria de la companya de la companya de la c La califactoria de la califactoria La califactoria de la califactoria miles from the tagging site. The remaining three tags were turned in to our office by the local fish buyer who found them on white-fish sold to him by the Whitefish Bay Reserve Indians.

These fish were undoubtedly caught in Regina or Lobstick Bays although the Indian Band holds a licence only for nearby Dogpaw and Caviar Lake. With the Indian Reserve bordering on Regina Bay the setting of nets in this area is understandable but is kept under control by the local Conservation Officer. However, this situation does disrupt the tagging to a certain extent.

It is interesting to note that only one of 500 tagged whitefish was caught outside Whitefish Bay although the waters immediately outside the bay receive a considerable amount of netting.

Also interesting is the fact that although several pound nets were operated in Whitefish Bay proper, and 30,000 pounds of whitefish since caught in these nets, that none of these were tagged fish. It is possible that the whitefish in Lobstick and Regina Bays are more or less a discrete population.

### Lake Trout Tagging Studies

In the fall of 1954 commercial fishermen were operating two pound nets in Whitefish Bay for whitefish and they were asked to retain their lake trout for tagging. The location of these nets is shown on the accompanying map. On October 17, 1954 these nets were lifted and thirty-seven lake trout ranging from five to twenty pounds in weight were tagged and released. A strap tag similar to that used on pickerel was attached and clinched to the right operculum. It was not possible to collect biological data at that time.

Of the thirty-seven lake trout tagged four (10.8%) were reported caught during the following year. The first recapture was made by commercial nets off Chisholm Island on January 20th 1955. The known distance travelled by this fish was about 14 miles. Two lake trout tagged near Sioux Narrows were caught by anglers at the Three Sisters Islands, a distance of four miles. The fourth recapture was a trout tagged in Knickerbocker Inlet and caught by an angler at the mouth of Ghost Bay some 8 miles distant.

Although the small number of fish involved in this study limits the conclusions that may be drawn the returns indicate a local movement of the lake trout population and also suggest the exploitation (11%) which this population receives. Whitefish Bay is possibly the most heavily fished water in the Kenora District and if we can obtain reliable data on the exploitation by angling in this bay they can be used as an index to conditions in other waters. These tagging studies will be continued with this aim in mind.

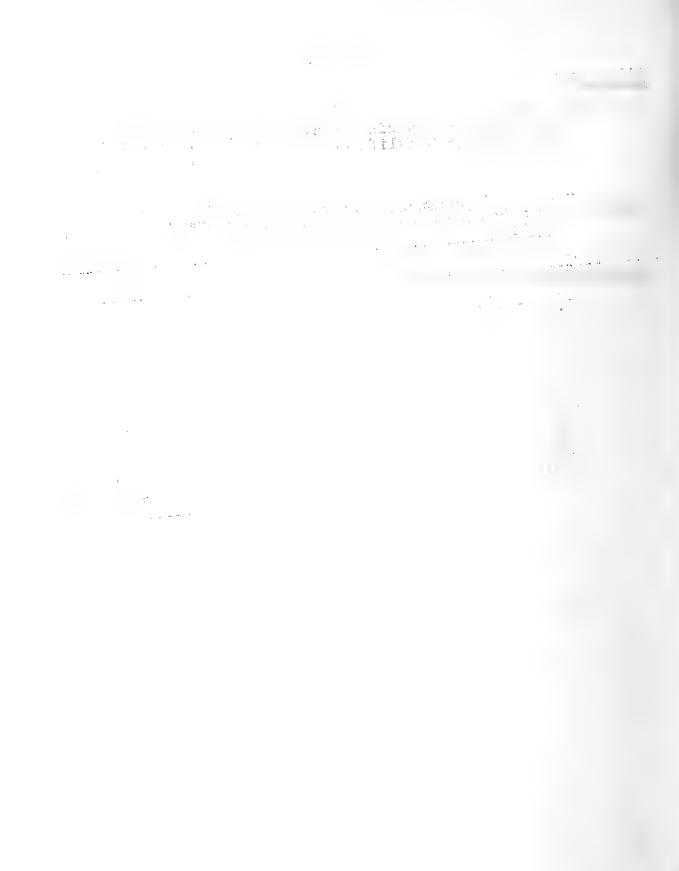
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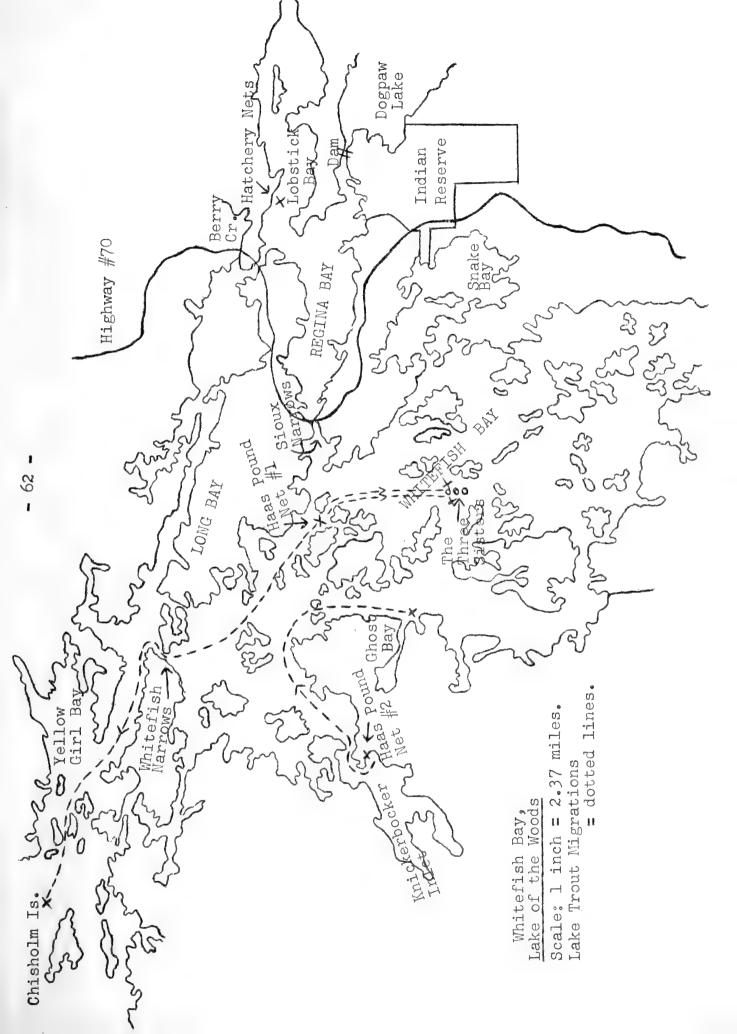
### Reference:

Churchill, Warren
The effect of marking on walleyes. (Abstract)
17th Midwest Wildlife Conference, 1955. 3 pages.

TABLE I - Length Distribution of Whitefish Tagged and Released from Hatchery Nets in Lobstick Bay During the Fall of 1954.

Length Class (Total Length)		Number of Fish
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	Total	492







# - 63 -SUMMARY OF FUR RETURNS BY ONTARIO GAME MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

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