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Climate Change Canada

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WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE ANNUAL SUMMARY

2018-2019



Cat. No.: En5-1E-PDF

ISSN: 2368-5859

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Environment and Climate Change Canada

Public Inquiries Centre

12th Floor, Fontaine Building

200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard

Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

Telephone: 819-938-3860

Toll Free: 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only)

Email: ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Sheldon Jordan, Director General.
Photo : © Anne-Brigitte Quirion

It started with birds.

Indigenous peoples have relied on harvesting activities for millennia, which still continues to be important both for subsistence and cultural purposes. For example, today, Cree communities participate in spring and fall “Goose Breaks” which are fundamental seasons in Indigenous communities in many parts of this country, to harvest and to spend time on the land.

The beginning of European migration brought more pressures on wildlife. In 1721, Michel Bégon de la Picardière, then Intendant of New France, issued an edict limiting grouse hunting seasons. This was followed in 1727 by his successor, Claude-Thomas Dupuy, who prohibited the killing of “tree birds”. Later, under British rule, laws conserving wildlife were enacted in Nova Scotia before 1800 and in the former Canada East by the 1850s to protect against overharvesting of seabird eggs in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

As the 20th century began, a crisis in the overhunting of migratory birds led to the loss of several species in North America. Canada (then represented by the United Kingdom) and the United States signed the Migratory Birds Convention in 1916. It was this country’s first major environmental treaty.

As former U.S. President, Abraham Lincoln, once noted, "Law without enforcement is but good advice." So, it was in 1919 that the first Federal Migratory Birds Enforcement Officer, Dr. Robie Tufts of Nova Scotia, was designated.

Federal wildlife enforcement has evolved significantly over the last century. Long-time the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in the 1970s and 80s the mandate moved to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), where it has resided first in the Canadian Wildlife Service and, since 2006, in the Enforcement Branch.

The role of enforcement has changed as well. Our enforcement officers are now responsible for protecting over 400 species of migratory birds including nests and habitats; 146 protected areas, international and interprovincial trade in wildlife for over 36,000 species; and most recently over 560 species at risk in areas of federal jurisdiction. Over the last decades, recognizing the threats of pollution to humans and the environment, ECCC has also developed an Environmental Enforcement function for the approximately 60 regulations and other legislative requirements that aim to prevent, minimize and control the impact of harmful substances released into our environment.

Our 2018-2019 Annual Summary celebrates the best of 100 years of federal wildlife law enforcement in Canada. It is built on the principles of conservation, protection and respect. Our officers and support staff of the past and present embody this in every way.

Sheldon Jordan

Director General, Wildlife Enforcement Directorate

1. INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Wildlife Enforcement Directorate Annual Summary



Sand dunes.
Photo: Antoine Marcil ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada



Mountain Range on Dempster Highway.
Photo: Daniel Dillon ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

The Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) is a part of Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) Enforcement Branch (EB).

WED is responsible for enforcing federal wildlife legislation that protects:

- plant and animal species and their habitat in Canada; and
- many foreign species, such as endangered and threatened species in trade, migratory birds and some invasive species.

This annual summary covers the period of April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. It reports on WED's priorities, actions and achievements and includes information about enforcement highlights, people, partners and resources.

Although this report offers a wide variety of information, it is impossible to include all of our annual activities in one document. To learn more about WED, visit us online at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/enforcement.html>

Almost all of the images in this report were taken by members of our staff during the course of their work. The photograph on the front page was selected through WED's annual photograph contest. It was taken by Andr  s De Vleeschauwer and is an image of an eastern newt.

WHO WE ARE

WED is a team of 82 field enforcement officers, 12 intelligence staff and 41 support professionals.

Our national headquarters office is located in Gatineau, Qu  bec. We also have five regions, each with a regional headquarters office and local offices. The five regions are:

- Atlantic Region (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador)
- Qu  bec Region
- Ontario Region
- Prairie and Northern Region (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut)
- Pacific and Yukon Region (British Columbia, Yukon)

WHAT WE DO

At WED, we work across the country, from coast to coast to coast, enforcing the laws and regulations that protect and conserve wildlife and its habitat. Our work aims to reduce threats and damages to biodiversity for the benefit of all Canadians and the global community.

Together, we enforce the following acts:

- *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*
- *Canada Wildlife Act (CWA)*
- *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (MBCA)*
- *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPIITA)*
- Provisions of the Antarctic Environmental Protection Act (AEPA) concerning wildlife

Wildlife enforcement officers make considerable efforts to ensure that companies and individuals comply with laws that protect wild species and their habitats. Do you have a tip about suspected illegal activities? Please report it to us at ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca, or anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8472 (TIPS). You may be eligible for a reward of up to \$2,000 from Crime Stoppers.

HOW WE OPERATE



Hatchlings.
Photo: André Lupert ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Our wildlife enforcement officers conduct inspections to verify compliance with legal requirements. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that non-compliance has occurred, officers may begin an investigation to gather evidence and take appropriate enforcement measures against the offender. This is sometimes in collaboration with other provincial, territorial and federal government departments or international agencies.

Wildlife enforcement officers can take various measures against offenders. These measures include issuing tickets, administrative penalties, warnings or compliance orders. Prosecutions can also be pursued in serious cases of non-compliance. To ensure fair, predictable and consistent enforcement of legislation, officers act in accordance with EB's Compliance and Enforcement Policy for Wildlife Legislation. You can learn more about this policy online at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/publications/compliance-policy-wildlife-legislation.html>

Intelligence makes up an important part of our work. As an intelligence-driven enforcement organization, our operations are informed heavily by information provided by our intelligence professionals. These professionals use industry-standard products and processes to understand and forecast patterns of non-compliance. This information allows us to better prioritize our enforcement operations to intercept the worst offenders.

We also have an important team of support professionals located across the country that perform work critical to keeping our organization running. This work includes planning and reporting, regulatory analysis, training facilitation, policy and procedure development, program support and implementation, operations management, finance, administration and more.

The Environmental Enforcement Directorate (EED) of the Enforcement Branch is one of our key partners. EED is responsible for enforcing primarily the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) and the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*. We collaborate regularly and sometimes conduct joint investigations. To learn more about EED, please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/enforcement.html>

We also rely on ongoing support from the Enforcement Services Directorate (ESD) for training, designation and directives and for new technology and data management. ESD continuously reviews and updates training requirements for both new and senior wildlife enforcement officers, thanks to learning specialists and project officers, as well as recently added training officers. ESD also develops and reviews officer safety procedures, directives and policies so that officers have the best possible guidance when making decisions. Finally, ESD provides, improves, and maintains an enforcement data management system and assists the Branch with using new technologies.

This year, ESD reviewed and standardized self-defense, use of force and duty firearm training requirements; reviewed current directives and procedures; provided ongoing maintenance and made to the Gavia database; distributed satellite radios to officers; and began work to complete a full review of all training related to designation, health and safety and progressive operational field techniques and skills.

Finally, WED also works closely with our colleagues at ECCC's Canadian Wildlife Service, who provide wildlife and conservation expertise, and with the Science and Technology Branch, who provide forensic analysis services.

Our Vision, Mission and Values



Monarch butterfly.
Photo: André Lupert ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Vision

To be a highly regarded law enforcement agency, respected for our effectiveness in the protection of wildlife and their habitat in Canada, and for our contribution on the world stage.

Mission

To protect, respect and conserve wildlife and their habitat through the effective enforcement of federal wildlife legislation.

Values

Teamwork, respect, communication, professionalism, accountability, leadership, trust, integrity and consistency.

Guiding Principles

1. Achieve maximum deterrence by preventing and stopping crime and prosecuting offenders.
2. Demonstrate leadership and vigilance locally, nationally and globally.
3. Engage our partners to ensure our common goals are realized.
4. Engage our staff at all levels to develop a national program and recognize the importance on individual contributions to this effort.

Our Priorities

Our enforcement priorities focus on protecting species and habitats that are most at risk from conservation threats and/or illegal human activity.

We take a risk-based and intelligence-driven approach to developing our annual priorities for planned and targeted inspections. This allows us to identify potential offenders who could cause the worst damage, and to protect the species most at risk from non-compliant human activities. In addition, routine and complaints-based inspections continue to remain an important part of our enforcement program.

We also use a project planning and tracking tool to better allocate resources to priority activities, and to produce reports. This tool enhances our ability to make risk-based decisions and link priorities to outcomes.

Our priorities:

- Canadian species that are at high risk for conservation and/or high risk for non-compliance
- Habitats or protected areas at high risk for conservation and/or high risk for non-compliance
- Foreign species that are at high risk for conservation and/or high risk for non-compliance

Our 2018-2019 Accomplishments

- This year marks the 100-year anniversary of wildlife law enforcement in Canada. Read more on page 15.
- In 2018-2019, we conducted 3,404 inspections and initiated 16 new investigations under the legislation we enforce.
- Our work resulted in 630 enforcement measures, including prosecutions, compliance orders, tickets and warnings.
- Our investigations led to 123 convictions and initiated 11 new prosecutions.
- Our efforts resulted in a total of \$2,645,931 in penalties, as well as confiscations of such items as a black bear hide, 32 green winged teal carcasses, hunting equipment including a boat, shotguns, decoys and ammunition and over 10,000 vials of illegally imported herbal oil.
- The largest penalty we saw this year was \$1,775,000. Learn more on page 12.

2. ENFORCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Llewellyn Glacier, British Columbia.
Photo: Gordon Barker ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

At WED, we work from coast to coast to coast enforcing Canada's federal wildlife legislation. Here are highlights from some of our enforcement activities this year.

Officers Conduct Blitz to Protect Endangered Piping Plovers



New Brunswick Joint Coastal Patrol along the Acadian Peninsula utilizing both water and land-based patrols.
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

JULY 2018

Over the course of three days in July, wildlife enforcement officers worked with provincial partners in New Brunswick to conduct a patrol and inspection blitz of coastal areas known to be nesting habitat for endangered piping plovers. The purpose of the joint operation was to ensure the species and its habitat were not being disturbed during their critical nesting period.

Officers used a patrol vessel equipped with state of the art technology to help locate potential violators along the Gulf of St. Lawrence – an area where the majority of endangered piping plovers nest. During the blitz, 10 warnings and nine tickets amounting to a total of \$2,392.50 were issued under provincial legislation, supporting the goals of the and the Species at Risk Act (SARA). Next year, officers will continue to work with partners to ensure the species remains protected.

Hunters and Fishers Inspected at New Brunswick Border Crossings



Multi-Agency participants of the Export Border Blitz in Woodstock & St. Stephen, NB.
Photos: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

SEPTEMBER 2018

In partnership with several national and provincial agencies, wildlife enforcement officers conducted a blitz of border inspections during hunting and fishing season in September. The objective of the blitz was to ensure hunters and fishers were compliant with relevant legislation as they returned from Canada to the United States at several New Brunswick border crossings.



Three Individuals Fined \$18,000 for Unlawfully Disturbing Migratory Bird Nests and Taking Eggs



189 seized migratory bird eggs.
Photo: Murray Letto ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

MARCH 2019

On March 27, 2019, three individuals pleaded guilty in court to two counts each under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* for unlawfully disturbing migratory bird nests and unlawfully taking migratory bird eggs along the St. Lawrence River in Québec. A total of 189 migratory bird eggs were seized and the offenders were fined a total of \$17,000. One of the offenders was fined an additional \$1,000 for willfully obstructing a game officer in the performance of his duties.

The three individuals are prohibited from holding a migratory bird hunting permit for one year and from visiting or accompanying anyone visiting any of the islands of the Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve in the area between Rivière-St-Jean and Natashquan, Québec for two years.

Repeat Offender Fined \$10,000 for Violating the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*



Ducks attracted to illegal corn bait in a pond located in
Commune de l'Île Dupas, Québec.
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

MAY 2018

On May 11, 2018, the owner of an outfitter business in Quebec was ordered by the court to pay a fine of \$10,000 to the Environmental Damages Fund after he pleaded guilty in court to depositing bait at a prohibited time – an offence under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA). This was the individual's third conviction on similar charges.

In addition to this fine, the offender's migratory game bird hunting permit was suspended for one year and he is prohibited from possessing, applying for, or using a migratory game bird hunting permit. He is not allowed to guide clients personally during the suspension period and items used in connection with the violation were forfeited.

In 1994, the offender pleaded guilty to two counts, in similar circumstances, for depositing bait at a prohibited time and for hunting less than 400 metres from the baited site. In June 2015, he also pleaded guilty to one summary charge of depositing bait at a prohibited time. As a result, he was sentenced to pay a fine, his migratory game bird hunting permit was suspended for one year, and he received three years' probation.

Two Hunters Fined a Total of \$10,000 for Unlawfully Transporting Moose from New Brunswick to Québec

AUGUST 2018

On August 17, 2018, two individuals pleaded guilty in court to one count each of unlawful interprovincial transport of big game – in this case, moose – from New Brunswick to Québec, an offence under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPIITA). The Court ordered the offenders each to pay a fine of \$5,000, directed to the Environmental Damages Fund.

The charges stemmed from an investigation under Operation Commicerf, a long-term investigation and major anti-poaching operation led by Québec's Department of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (MFFP). Wildlife enforcement officers participated in collecting evidence of violations of federal laws, including the illegal transport of animals across provincial boundaries by the two individuals. The offenders also pleaded guilty to other charges under provincial legislation.

Investigation Launched Due to Violations of the Emergency Order for the Protection of the Western Chorus Frog



Cutting shrubs and trees under high-voltage lines in the area protected by the Emergency Order for the Protection of the Western Chorus Frog.
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada



Sign indicating the border and prohibited activities listed under the Emergency Order for the Protection of the Western Chorus Frog.
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

APRIL 2018

In April, during a patrol in the La Prairie area of Québec, wildlife enforcement officers discovered a violation of the Emergency Order for the Protection of the Western Chorus Frog – an order made under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). In particular, officers found that subcontractors of a hydro agency had unlawfully cleared a large area of shrubs and trees using hand-held brush cutters. The area cleared measured approximately two kilometres by 400 metres and the clearing had been undertaken during the western chorus frogs' critical breeding period, when frogs gather to reproduce in small ponds that form on the land in this area. Officers ordered that any more land-clearing activities be halted, and launched an investigation, which is currently underway.

Three Hunters Fined a Total of \$19,000 for the Unlawful Hunting of a Trumpeter Swan in a Conservation Area

MAY 2018

On September 23, 2017, during a routine patrol of waterfowl hunters at the Luther Marsh Conservation Area in Ontario, wildlife enforcement officers observed a dead Trumpeter Swan floating in the water near a group of hunters. The officers established that three hunters claimed to have shot the swan, and the hunters were subsequently charged. There is no open season in Canada for hunting Trumpeter Swans.

On May 16, 2018, all three hunters were sentenced in the Ontario Court of Justice after pleading guilty to one count each of hunting a Trumpeter Swan during a closed season, contrary to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA). Combined fines totaling \$19,000 were directed to the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF).

In addition to the fines, the defendants were ordered to either complete the Ontario Hunter Education Program or surrender any permit issued under the MBCA and be prohibited from applying for a new permit for a period of five years.

Individual Fined for Unlawfully Importing Coral from Cuba



Cuban coral import.
Photo: Mark McIntyre ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

APRIL 2018

In July, 2017 wildlife enforcement officers responded to a referral from Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) that an individual had been suspected of unlawfully importing coral via Toronto Pearson International Airport on his return journey from Cuba. CBSA officers detained a large bag of coral specimens from the individual and transferred the custody of it to wildlife enforcement officers. After closely inspecting the bag of coral specimens, officers identified it as containing CITES-regulated species and, as a result, issued a ticket to the individual for contravening the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRITA). The set fine for this violation is \$125.00.

Unlawful Elephant Ivory Tusks and Cribbage Boards Found Prior to Auction



Elephant ivory tusks and cribbage boards with marine turtle shell and ivory.
Photo: Mark McIntyre ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

APRIL 2018

In April, wildlife enforcement officers became aware that two elephant ivory tusks and a number of cribbage boards made from elephant ivory and marine turtle shell were going to be offered at an auction. After conducting an investigation, officers informed the owners of the items that the species involved were listed under Appendix I of CITES, and that they could not possess these items to offer them for sale without showing proof that either:

- the species had been taken from their habitat prior to July 3, 1975 (the date that Canada signed the CITES Convention), or
- the items had been lawfully imported into Canada after that date.

The owners could not prove either of these conditions, so they voluntarily abandoned the items to the Crown.

Nearly \$3,000 in Tickets Issued for Violations at Wellers Bay National Wildlife Area



Wellers Bay National Wildlife Area patrol.
Photo: Justin Cooke ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

AUGUST 2018

Wellers Bay National Wildlife Area (NWA), located in eastern Ontario, is one of the last undeveloped sand spits on the shores of Lake Ontario. It provides habitat to many species at risk including the piping plover, least bittern, eastern hog-nosed snake, eastern ribbonsnake, monarch butterfly and western chorus frog.

Access to the Wellers Bay NWA is prohibited in an effort to protect the fragile ecosystem and sensitive wildlife habitat. In addition, there is also risk of injury from unexploded explosive ordnances at the site, which was used as a bombing range during the Second World War.

Despite this, many individuals continue to use the NWA. This year, officers patrolling the NWA during the August long weekend issued 19 tickets for offences, ranging from trespassing, littering and allowing dogs to run at large, for a total of \$2,970 in fines. Officers will continue to patrol the site to discourage violations.

Individual Sentenced to Pay \$20,000 as a Result of Ongoing Efforts of Operation Bruin

JANUARY 2019

On January 18, 2019, an individual from Alberta was sentenced in court following his conviction on October 26, 2018, for two counts of illegally importing into Canada and possessing a black bear hide from Alaska, United States. The individual was ordered to pay \$20,000 for violating the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA)*. The penalty was directed to the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund and the individual was required to forfeit the hide seized during the investigation.

In addition to the fine and forfeiture, the offender is prohibited from hunting outside of Canada for a period of two years and from importing and exporting animals or their parts to and from Canada for a period of two years for reasons not related to his taxidermy business.

This case was initiated under Operation Bruin, an extensive North American investigation into illegal hunting of wildlife in Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon. WED, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Wildlife Troopers and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (Fish and Wildlife Enforcement) worked together to enforce their respective laws that protect wildlife, after U.S. authorities initially determined that several Alberta hunters were illegally killing Alaskan brown bears and unlawfully importing them into Canada.

To date, six Canadians and two Americans have been convicted in Canada under Operation Bruin for contraventions of WAPPRIITA, with penalties totalling \$87,200. In addition, the eight defendants have a combined 28 years of hunting bans and prohibitions against importing and exporting animals to and from Canada. As a result of Operation Bruin, 36 animal trophies and over \$100,000 in hunting gear, including an aircraft, a truck, all-terrain vehicles, a boat, and a rifle have been ordered forfeited in both countries. Our United States partners have convicted 12 people under this operation in Alaska.

Company Ordered to Pay \$50,000 for Illegally Importing Herbal Oil Containing Protected Orchid Species

MARCH 2019

On March 4, 2019, a company in British Columbia was ordered to pay a total of \$50,000 in penalties after pleading guilty to violating the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRITA). Of the total fine, \$45,000 was directed to the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF) and \$5,000 was to be paid as a fine. In addition, the court ordered that the 51 cases of seized product be forfeited.

Several years earlier, in March 2016, the Canada Border Services Agency reported to wildlife enforcement officers that the company would be receiving a shipment of herbal oils in Vancouver. The shipping invoice indicated that the herbal oils contained plant material derived from the *Bletilla striata*, a species native to East Asia that is also known as the hyacinth orchid or Chinese ground orchid. All orchid species are listed in the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES). A permit is required to import *Bletilla striata* into Canada.

Wildlife enforcement officers inspected and detained 51 boxes containing 10,200 vials of the herbal oil.

This is not the first conviction under the WAPPRITA for the importation company. In 2010, the company pleaded guilty to illegally importing one carton of the plant species *Nardostachys grandiflora* (Spikenard), which is commonly used in dried form as a medicinal herb.

\$1.775 Million Fine Handed to Oilsands Company after the Death of 30 Great Blue Herons

JANUARY 2019

On January 2, 2019, an oilsands company in Alberta pleaded guilty in court to one count of violating the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*. The company was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1.775 million, directed to the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF).

In August 2015, wildlife enforcement officers received a report of 31 deceased great blue herons that were exposed to bitumen at the oil company's facility in Northern Alberta. An investigation confirmed 31 great blue herons had been found in an abandoned sump that did not have any bird deterrents in place, 30 of which were deceased when discovered.

The company was charged with depositing or, permitting the deposit, of a substance that is harmful to migratory birds in waters or an area frequented by migratory birds or in a place from which the substance may enter such waters or such an area. The company also pleaded guilty to one charge under the provincial legislation and was sentenced to pay an additional fine of \$975,000.

Administrative Monetary Penalties

APRIL 2018

In early 2018, wildlife enforcement officers began issuing Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) following the coming into force of the Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations (AMPs Regulations). AMPs are similar to court-levied fines and are imposed through an administrative process. They do not result in a criminal record or imprisonment and can be used instead of, or in addition to, other enforcement measures. AMPs are not used in cases where a contravention is serious enough to warrant a prosecution.

In 2018-2019, almost \$33,000 in AMPs were issued for various violations of the *Canada Wildlife Act (CWA)*, *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (MBCA)* and the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPIITA)*.

Some highlights of the AMPs issued this year include:

- \$4,000 AMP for the unlawful sale of feather fans made from Canada goose feathers
- \$2,000 AMP for the unlawful entry into National Wildlife Area (NWA)
- \$1,000 AMP for a diesel spill into reservoir affecting migratory birds
- \$400 AMP for the unlawful possession of nine baby Northern Flickers
- \$200 AMP for unlawfully transporting migratory birds

Dozens of Migratory Bird Deaths Reported as Incidental Takes

AUGUST 2018

It is illegal to kill a migratory bird or destroy a nest without a permit. When these happen in the course of an otherwise legal activity, it is known as incidental take. Wildlife enforcement officers respond to dozens of reports of incidental takes during the summer months every year. This year, at a potash mine in Saskatchewan, over 50 migrating birds died from flying into buildings around the mine or from exhaustion. At another potash mine in the province, 23 migratory birds died from striking buildings at the facility. The incidents in both locations seemed to be related to poor visibility or poor lighting on the buildings.

Energy Company in Alberta Ordered to Pay Almost \$300,000 After Releasing Substances Known to be Harmful to Migratory Birds

JULY 2018

On July 13, 2018, an energy company in northern Alberta was ordered by the court to pay a total penalty of \$290,000 after pleading guilty in court to one charge under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA). The penalty, directed to the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF), is for the purposes of protecting, conserving and restoring the environment in relation to migratory birds in northeastern Alberta.

On July 15, 2015, a pipeline break occurred at the energy company's facility at Long Lake, Alberta. The break released approximately 5000 cubic metres of emulsion product, consisting of bitumen, water and sand, into the environment. The investigation revealed that these substances are harmful to migratory birds and that the spill occurred in an area frequented by migratory birds. In addition to the penalties under the MBCA, the company has pleaded guilty to charges under Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

3. OUR PEOPLE



We are wildlife enforcement officers, intelligence staff and support professionals working in offices across Canada, committed to protecting and conserving wildlife and its habitat.

Eggs.
Photo: Anik Thériault ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Celebrating 100 Years of History



Robie Tufts (undated)

This year marks an important milestone in the history of Canadian wildlife law enforcement. One century ago, in 1919, Robie Tufts, of Nova Scotia, was designated as Canada's first Federal Migratory Birds Enforcement Officer.

Over the past century, wildlife law enforcement has evolved under various departments and even the RCMP. Today, Environment and Climate Change Canada's enforcement officers share the same passion for conservation and protection, as did their predecessors.

Meet One of Canada's First Wildlife Officers: Robie W. Tufts

Robie W. Tufts (1884-1982) is considered a founder of migratory bird science in eastern Canada. In fact, Tufts helped to shape wildlife conservation in the Maritimes, as well as a whole new generation of conservationists.

Born in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Tufts developed a keen interest in birds at a young age, encouraged by his mother, who was a botanist. He accompanied her on field excursions and developed a passion for birds that would last his entire life.

Although he initially found himself working in banking, Tufts developed a concern for bird populations that were declining due to overhunting and a lack of conservation standards. He eagerly welcomed the enactment of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* in 1917 and, two years later, he decided to make a career change to become the Chief Federal Migratory Birds Officer for the Maritimes.

With relentless vigour and legal backing from new migratory bird legislation, Tufts' work resulted in 679 charges and convictions in his first 13 years of work. He made it known that his philosophy was "hew to the line and let the chips fall where they may."

Tufts also focused on providing education about migratory bird conservation. In fact, many of the lawbreakers he charged ended up becoming some of the most passionate bird conservationists of the time. For instance, after coming across two young boys shooting birds in an Annapolis Valley orchard, Tufts took it upon himself to educate the boys on conservation. Both of the boys went on to develop distinguished careers in wildlife conservation, with one of them going on to occupy a prestigious senior position with the National Museum of Natural Science in Ottawa.

WED Manager Facilitates International Wildlife Crime Scene Investigations Training in Thailand



Wildlife crime scene investigation training exercise.
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

In November 2018, INTERPOL's Environmental Security Programme sponsored a three-day wildlife crime scene investigations training course in Banphra, Thailand. An Operations Manager from Atlantic Region facilitated the course alongside a retired WED Manager from Saskatchewan. The course was held in a wildlife rescue centre in Thailand and included attendees from Vietnam, Malaysia, Laos, Indonesia and Thailand.

Wildlife enforcement in Canada is recognized for its professionalism and leadership. Through organizations such as INTERPOL, several federal and provincial officers have had the opportunity over the last decade to share their skills while at the same time learning and building bridges across our field.

WED Attends CEC Workshop on Sustainable Trade in Turtles and Tortoises

In October 2018, WED representatives attended the Commission for Environmental Cooperation's (CEC) Trilateral Trade and Enforcement Training Workshop in Miami, U.S. to Support the Legal and Sustainable Trade in Turtles and Tortoises. Identified as a priority by the CEC in the 2017 *Action Plan for North America: Sustainable Trade in Turtles and Tortoises*, the workshop provided a venue for information sharing about freshwater turtle and tortoise science and trade as well as poaching and smuggling across Canada, the United States and Mexico.

WED Participates in CEC Shark Identification Training

In July 2018, with representatives from the United States and Mexico, WED officers attended a training event held by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation's (CEC) on shark identification and trade in Vancouver. The training aimed to increase regional CITES enforcement capacity regarding the trade of shark in North America. Prior to changes in the *Fisheries Act* in 2019 to prohibit import of shark fins not attached to a carcass, Canada was the largest importer of shark fins outside of Asia.

WED Officers Attend 37th Annual NAWEOA Conference



WED Officers during the uniform day at NAWEOA
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

The North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Associations (NAWEOA) 37th Annual Conference was held in July 2018 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Several wildlife enforcement officers attended the conference, similar to years past, to participate in training and networking events related to North American wildlife law enforcement.

WED Officers Participate in Wood Identification Workshops

Over the course of the year, several wood identification workshops were delivered to wildlife enforcement officers across Canada. Workshop facilitators included experts and scientists from various national and international partner agencies, forestry centres and laboratories. The purpose of the workshops was to equip officers with techniques to use when inspecting exotic wood imports pursuant to the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA)*. WED plays an important role in helping ensure the legal and sustainable trade of exotic wood in Canada and around the world.

Vicki Thomson Celebrates 45 Years as a Federal Public Servant



Vicki Thomson.
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

Our very own Vicki Thomson celebrated a major milestone this year, marking 45 years with the federal public service. Vicki joined WED's intelligence team in 2010 to provide expertise as an Intelligence Analyst in one of our regional offices. Vicki has had a long career in intelligence and investigations, previously working with notable federal departments and agencies such as the RCMP, Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). We congratulate Vicki on her achievement and thank her for many years of dedication and service.

WED Officers Assist with Emergency Water Rescue

On their way back to shore after a day conducting marine patrols in the southern Ontario, wildlife enforcement officers came across several emergency vehicles and firefighters responding to an incident near a boat launch. Officers learned that two individuals had accidentally capsized their canoe and were in distress in the water. The officers offered to assist the firefighters with the rescue and under the direction of the fire department they were able to help rescue one of the individuals using their patrol boat. The other individual was rescued by another boat operated by a member of the public. Both individuals were returned safely to shore and their canoe was recovered.

4. OUR PARTNERS



Cathedral Mountain, British Columbia.
Photo: Daniel Dillon ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Wildlife crime affects us all. That is why we work closely with our partners at home and abroad to address it.

London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade

Hosted by the United Kingdom government, this Conference attracted 2,000 officials and representatives from over 60 countries around the globe. The Canadian delegation was led by the High Commissioner to the UK, Janice Charette, along with representatives from Global Affairs Canada's International Crime and Terrorism Division and WED. The conference featured sessions on technology and crime, financial flows and other subjects including presentations on live animal trade by WED Director General Sheldon Jordan and Peruvian Forest Department Head John Leigh. A declaration on increasing collaborative efforts, strengthening legal frameworks and going after the profits of transnational wildlife crime was supported by over 60 countries.

INTERPOL wildlife Crime Working Group



Sheldon Jordan, 29th Meeting of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group, Lancaster House, London, UK.
Photo : © Pia Jonnson

WED participated in the 29th Working Group meeting held in October that drew law enforcement staff, civil society and academics from 40 countries, including WED Intelligence doctoral intern Rachel Borrato. Officer Quentin Deering of Yellowknife presented to the Working Group on the challenges of enforcing wildlife law in the arctic and the importance of using technologies where human eyes cannot be.

WED Director General and former Working Group Chair, Sheldon Jordan, facilitated a private meeting between front line officers from around the world and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William. The Duke met with attendees from Angola, Malawi, Thailand, the United States, Czech Republic, INTERPOL (France) and CITES (Sweden), along with Officer Deering representing Canada. Director General Jordan presented the Duke with an encased Enforcement Branch badge, appointing him an Honourary Canadian Officer.

Polar Bear Enforcement Training Delivered to Nunatsiavut Conservation Officer



Wildlife Officer Dennis Parr and Conservation Officer Simon Kohlmeister participating in training in Nain, Labrador.
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

In June 2018, WED officers delivered Polar Bear 3-Pronged Approach Training to a Nunatsiavut Conservation Officer in Nain, Newfoundland and Labrador. The purpose of the training is to increase polar bear conservation by providing partners with knowledge and skills to better identify and track harvested polar bears destined for inter-provincial or international markets. All Nunatsiavut Conservation Officers representing seven communities in Labrador have now received this training.

WED Raise Awareness at the Vancouver Aquarium about Illegal Wildlife Trade



Wildlife Officer Brenda Buchart.
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

In recognition of World Reptile Day on October 21, 2018, wildlife enforcement officers participated in events held at the Vancouver Aquarium. Officers set up a booth where members of the public were invited to learn about the impacts of illegal wildlife trade.

Officers Bring Awareness about Greater Sage Grouse to Grasslands National Park



Wildlife Officer Andrew Smith overlooking East Block,
Grasslands National Park.
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

In summer 2018, wildlife enforcement officers conducted a joint patrol of the east and west blocks of Grasslands National Park with local park wardens. During the patrols, they spoke with members of the public about wildlife sightings, species at risk in the park and the importance of protecting sensitive critical habitat. Particular attention was given to Greater Sage Grouse and their lek sites, which are sensitive areas where the birds congregate for breeding purposes. Over two days, the officers covered remote terrain and observed the presence of a wide variety of species, including long billed curlew, black tailed prairie dogs, badger, pronghorn, mule deer, bison, striped ground squirrel and even the fossilized remains of a plesiosaurus.



Badlands, East Block Grassland National Park.
Photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

5. MOVING FORWARD



Sunset over Eagle Plains, Yukon.
Photo: Gordon Barker ©
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Conclusion

This year we conducted hundreds of inspections, initiated dozens of new investigations and saw many prosecutions come to a successful close.

From coast to coast to coast, we worked together to send a strong message that wildlife crime is not tolerated in Canada.

We look forward to continuing this important work in the year to come. In particular, in 2019-2020 we plan to:

- Integrate and train new officers, analysts and support staff;
- Develop, support and implement additional officer health and safety equipment;
- Undertake an Enforcement Branch Risk Assessment;
- Renew and develop additional Memoranda of Understanding with partners; and
- Continue to celebrate Canada's 100th Anniversary of federal wildlife officers.

Together, we are committed safeguarding wildlife and habitat in Canada for generations to come.