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Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada With Proposals for 1995 Hunting Regulations

April 28, 1995

Canadian Wildlife Service
Department of Environment



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Introduction

Environment Canada each year develops proposals for migratory game bird hunting regulations. This document has been prepared as an aid to federal-provincial consultation in the development of these regulations. It is also provided to other organizations with interest in migratory game bird conservation, in Canada and the United States, so that these groups will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations.

It may be that results from 1994 harvest surveys or 1995 breeding population surveys will indicate that changes in the suggested approach are needed to ensure conservation of migratory game birds. IN THIS CASE, CWS will issue a Bulletin updating these proposals on or about June 1, 1995.

Comments regarding this report, the regulation-setting process or other items relating to national migratory game bird concerns should be sent to:

Director General
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Specific comments on proposed regulations for local areas should be sent to the appropriate Regional office:

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Please advise the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa should you wish to be removed from this mailing list, or if you know of other groups or individuals who would appreciate receiving a copy.

New Information on Status of Migratory Game Birds

For a detailed account of the status of various populations of migratory game birds in Canada, refer to the December 1994 Status Report (CWS 1994). The following is new information.

1994 Permit Sales

Figure 1 shows the number of Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits sold for the 1994 hunting season, in comparison to historical trends. These data are plotted by province/territory in Figure 2. Sales are continuing to decline slightly in many provinces, but are stable in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Several explanations for the overall decreasing participation in hunting in Canada have been proposed, including lower expectation of hunter success (related to several years of declining duck populations and the associated restrictive regulations), increased costs of required permits, and a change in societal attitudes away from sports such as hunting. Nevertheless, waterfowl hunting remains an important activity in Canada. Regulations continue to be necessary to allow for sustainable waterfowl hunting.

1994 Species Composition Survey

The Migratory Bird Populations Division of CWS conducts an annual survey to determine the composition, by species, age and sex, of the kill of migratory game birds by sport hunters. The data for 1994 will be in final form in May, but preliminary estimates of some statistics, such as the age and sex of birds in the 1994 harvest, are now available.

Unadjusted age ratios from birds killed by hunters can be examined for long term trends in age structure of a population. The assumptions that the relative vulnerability of juveniles (compared to adults) does not change among years, and that the hunter-killed sample can be assigned to a particular breeding area are not reliable. Thus, the usefulness of these data for examining productivity of the previous year has some limitations. Nevertheless, the trend in unadjusted age ratios for mallards in each of the prairies provinces is shown in Figure 3. Since the low of 1988, unadjusted age ratios for mallards have generally improved. Figure 4 shows the age ratios for black ducks. The values are high in comparison to age ratios seen for prairie mallards, but have been declining over the past few years. In 1994 there was an increase in the age ratio, particularly in Atlantic Canada. Although the magnitude of the increase was implausible, it confirmed the observation by biologists that production of young black ducks had been very successful last year.

Prairie Habitat Conditions

Taylor (1995) summarized habitat conditions on the Canadian prairies. Last spring, the number of ponds in May rose sharply due to good run-off conditions and normal to above-normal spring precipitation across the region. The May Pond Index was at its highest level since 1986. The July Pond Index was at its high peak since 1975. Near, or above-normal summer precipitation was recorded throughout the region in 1994. Late fall precipitation was below-normal, but soil moisture was good.

During the winter, snowfall was above normal in most of Manitoba, but was increasingly below-normal as one moved further west. Much of the winter had extended mild spells which significantly reduced the snow pack throughout the

grasslands. However, expected normal precipitation in late winter and early spring should help to replace these losses.

Normal to above-normal run-off conditions exist in Manitoba and parts of eastern Saskatchewan. Below to well-below normal run-off conditions exist in the aspen parkland region of western Saskatchewan and most of Alberta. There is some evidence for a strengthening of El Niño, which, if true, could indicate a mild but wetter than normal spring.

Hunting Regulation Proposals for 1995

According to the rationale described in the December 1994 Report on the Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada (CWS 1994), the Canadian Wildlife Service is considering the following changes to the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations to be implemented in 1995. New information on the status of migratory bird populations, obtained from surveys taking place through the end of May, may require regulatory adjustments.

Newfoundland:

No changes to the hunting regulations are proposed for the 1995/96 season. Restrictions on the harvest of scoters were implemented last year (daily bag limit and possession limit were reduced from 12 to 6 and from 24 to 12, respectively), and will be maintained.

Bag limits, shorter hunting seasons and new hunting zones were introduced for murrelets (or turrs) in Newfoundland and Labrador in 1993/94. These restrictions are being used to reduce the harvest of thick-billed murrelets and common murrelets by up to 50%.

Prince Edward Island:

The Pisquid Pond non-toxic shot zone will be eliminated from federal regulations in 1995 because the area falls within the provincially regulated non-toxic zone. No other changes are proposed for the 1995/96 hunting season.

Nova Scotia:

Victoria County (Cape Breton) Nova Scotia will be included in zone 2 instead of zone 1 beginning in the 1995 season. This change will allow hunters additional hunting opportunities in coastal areas for common merganser, red-breasted merganser, scaup, goldeneye and bufflehead. The additional harvest is expected to be small.

The restrictions on the harvest of scoters introduced last year are proposed to remain (daily bag and possession limits reduced from 10 to 4 and from 20 to 8, respectively). Similarly, the restrictions on the kill of black ducks will also remain in place.

New Brunswick:

No changes to the hunting regulations are proposed for the 1995/96 season. Restrictions on the harvest of scoters were implemented last year (daily bag limit and possession limit were reduced from 6 to 4 and from 12 to 8, respectively), and will be maintained. Similarly, restrictions on the harvest of black ducks will be maintained.

Quebec:

The problem of declining numbers of migrant Canada geese of the Atlantic population (AP) was described in CWS (1993). Various indices point to reduced numbers and poor production of young in recent years. Restrictions on the sport harvest of AP Canada geese will be maintained and aboriginal hunters encouraged to contribute to restrictions.

CWS-Quebec has recorded an increasing demand for woodcock hunting, especially by European hunters. These tourists are attracted by the large bag limit on woodcock in Canada which is much more liberal than in most European countries. Since these non-resident hunters are specialists and usually hunt for several consecutive days, they rapidly obtain their daily bag and possession limits. Available information suggests that local populations of woodcocks could be over-harvested in parts of southern Quebec. Until the situation is better documented, it is proposed to reduce the daily bag limit for non-residents on woodcock to half that of residents in each district, but allow the same possession limit to both residents and non-residents.

A conversion to non-toxic shot is planned in the National Wildlife Areas for the 1996 season, and throughout the province in 1997.

The daily bag limit for sea ducks has been adjusted in some eastern districts of Quebec to be comparable to that of neighbouring Atlantic provinces for this group of birds. In 1994, the eider season in District B was split into an early and late season. The early hunt is intended to concentrate on locally produced eiders, while the later winter hunt should harvest birds from the Arctic breeding population. However, it has been observed that many immature non-flying birds were harvested because of the early opening of the season. An adjustment of the opening date for some parts of the Quebec North Shore is being proposed.

A small population of Barrow's goldeneye, estimated at about 3000 birds, breeds in eastern Canada. Special surveys on the status of this species in the St. Lawrence estuary show that it frequents tidal areas with other goldeneye species. Investigations on the population structure of Barrow's goldeneyes harvested during the hunting season over the past decade show that a very high proportion of adults are being harvested in the eastern part of Quebec. To better protect the eastern population of Barrow's goldeneye, and because of the difficulty in differentiating the young and females of both Barrow's and common goldeneyes, restrictions on the length of the season and bag limits are proposed on both species in the salt water portion of districts in eastern Quebec.

Spring surveys of Greater Snow geese indicated that 1994 population levels continue to be well above the 5 and 10 year averages. New hunting regulations on agricultural lands and management measures contemplated in the joint federal/provincial "Plan d'intervention sur l'Oie des neiges" have been implemented in recent years to increase the harvests and to lessen the crop depredation problem. The daily bag limit was

increased to 8 birds in 1993. Additional non-hunting zones will be considered to encourage greater geographic distribution of the population during migration.

Ontario:

Experimental early seasons for Canada geese have been established in the Cornwall area of southeastern Ontario, the Sault Ste. Marie area in northcentral Ontario and in ten Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in southwestern Ontario, to help reduce the nuisance problems associated with Canada geese from introduced flocks. Additional early seasons are now proposed for WMU 78 in southcentral Ontario and WMU 94B in southwestern Ontario.

It is proposed that the daily bag and possession limits for canvasback ducks be increased from one to two birds and from two to four birds respectively. The bag limit was reduced to one bird (two in possession) in 1988, when the estimated number of breeding pairs was relatively low. The canvasback breeding population in 1994 was close to the long term average, and with good breeding habitat expected in 1995, the small increase in bag and possession limits is proposed.

To address the problem of declining Canada geese in the Southern James Bay Population (SJB) various restrictive regulations have been imposed since 1991. These have included temporary season closure in southwestern Ontario, delays in opening dates, and reductions in daily bag limits (see CWS (1994) for details). It is proposed that restrictive regulations remain in place for 1995/96. Biologists have examined alternatives to further reduce the harvest, should further reductions be required for 1995. Restrictions to address the declining population of Canada geese in the Atlantic Population (AP) were introduced in 1994, and it is proposed that they be maintained for the 1995/96 season.

The non-toxic shot zone established at Lake St. Clair will be maintained. Because of death and injury to trumpeter swans due to lead poisoning near and around Wye Marsh, the non-toxic shot zone there will be expanded to include all of WMU 76. Further, non-toxic shot zones will be established at Darlington and Presqu'île Provincial Parks.

Consideration is being given to a phased-in conversion to non-toxic shot province-wide in Ontario by the year 2000. For 1996, consideration is being given to expanding non-toxic shot zones in southern Ontario to add WMUs 68, 69A, 70, 77, 78, 88, 89, 94 and 95. The expansion of the new zones would take into account the availability of adequate supplies of non-toxic shot, and the need to inform and educate hunters about its use.

Manitoba:

It is proposed that the Canada goose limit in zones 25A and 25B be increased to the same level as the rest of the province (5 daily and 10 in possession). Spring surveys, 1994, indicated that EPP Canada geese nesting in northern Manitoba have recovered sufficiently to allow relaxation of the restrictions to the daily bag limit.

With recent increases in duck populations in the Canadian prairies, it is proposed that the duck species restrictions be removed for residents in northern hunting zones GBHZ1 and GBHZ2 allowing a total duck bag of 6 daily and 12 in possession.

In southern hunting zones GBHZ3 and GBHZ4, it is proposed for residents, that the mallard daily bag limit be increased to 4 daily and 8 in possession up to mid-October, after which all species restrictions for ducks would be removed. For non-residents in these hunting zones, it is proposed to increase the mallard daily bag limit to 4 daily and 8 in possession for the entire season. All other species restrictions for non-residents would remain in effect throughout the season.

Saskatchewan:

It was proposed, in the December 1994 Status Report, that the migratory bird hunting season be extended by one week. This proposal has been withdrawn.

In recent years, there have been regulatory changes to allow hunters to take advantage of the continued increase in lesser snow goose and Ross' goose populations. It is now proposed to increase the daily bag for dark geese from 5 to 6 birds while retaining the 3 additional white geese. This would mean that the possible daily bag limit for white geese would be 9 (rather than 8 as last year). In addition, it is proposed that the non-resident goose season commence one week earlier.

It is proposed that the special restrictions on white-fronted geese be relaxed to increase the daily bag limit from two to three birds per day in the west part of the province, and introduce a one week earlier season in the west. Populations are not expected to be significantly impacted by the proposed changes to the regulations.

Because of improving populations of prairie ducks, and larger than expected reductions in harvest rate over recent years, it is proposed that the daily bag limit for ducks be increased from five to eight, while maintaining the one bird restriction on pintails.

A season for sandhill cranes is contemplated for Game Management Zones 43, 48-49 and 56-60, as well as a re-introduction of the season for non-residents. The mid-continent sandhill crane population has been stable, at approximately 400,000 birds for the past decade. The opening of a season in the proposed zones and re-introduction of the non-resident crane season will provide additional recreational opportunity while not significantly increasing the current harvest. Export procedures have been streamlined which will facilitate the use of birds by successful non-resident hunters.

Alberta:

Because of improvement in prairie duck populations, the guidelines under the Prairie Canada Mallard Harvest Strategy allow for relaxation of harvest restrictions that have been in place. It is proposed that the duck bag limit be increased to eight birds per day and 16 in possession. However, the current restriction on pintails (1 bird per day and 2 in possession) will be maintained. The special restrictions on canvasbacks are proposed to be removed. Harvest of canvasbacks is not expected to increase significantly as a result of this change.

It is proposed that the opening dates be altered to align goose and duck hunting by advancing the duck season opening date by three days in Zones 3, 4 and 8 and by 10 days in Zones 5, 6 and 7. No changes in dates are proposed for Zones 1 and 2.

British Columbia:

It is proposed that the entire province be designated as a non-toxic shot zone for migratory game bird hunting beginning in 1995. With recent increases in local and Flyway mallard populations, it is proposed that the mallard daily bag limit be increased to six birds per day and 16 in possession. No other changes to the hunting regulations are proposed.

It is proposed that the restrictions introduced last year for the hunting of Pacific brant be maintained (2 geese per day and 4 in possession). Further restrictions to the areas open for hunting will be found in the provincial hunting synopsis.

In Canada, mourning doves are hunted only in British Columbia. The harvest has varied considerably from year to year, ranging from a high of 5200 in 1977 to a low of 400 in 1988. The long term decline in mourning doves in southern British Columbia prompted hunting restrictions beginning in 1994. These restrictions will be maintained.

Declines in numbers of band-tailed pigeons have continued. The hunting season was closed in 1994 for this species, and it is proposed that the season remain closed in 1995.

Northwest Territories:

No changes in waterfowl season and bag limits are proposed for 1995. The daily bag limit for Canada geese on Akimiski Island, James Bay will remain at two, with a possession limit of four birds, to protect the SJBPC Canada geese that nest there. It is possible that more restrictions may be required (see section on Ontario).

Yukon Territory:

Regulations to allow the use of falconry to hunt migratory birds during the open season are proposed, but it may not be possible to implement this change before 1996. The entire Yukon Territory is proposed to be zoned for non-toxic shot for migratory bird hunting beginning in 1995.

Activities for Migratory Game Bird Management

CWS Survey of Contaminants in Waterfowl

Rationale for the Survey

A growing concern about the quality of waterfowl consumed by the general public as well as by native groups prompted the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to develop and implement a national survey of contaminants in waterfowl and other game birds. A review of toxic chemical residues in Canadian game birds revealed that there are very few data prior to 1988. Those earlier data suggest that species feeding at the higher trophic levels, particularly fish-eating birds, were more likely to be exposed to contaminants through their food. Canada presently has no consumption guidelines for wild ducks or game birds for any contaminants.

Objectives

- 1) To provide a comprehensive data base on contaminants in waterfowl to Health Canada so that the risk to human health of eating those waterfowl may be assessed, and so that consumption guidelines may be issued, if necessary.
- 2) To provide information to consumers on the levels of toxic chemical residues in waterfowl, and to make recommendations for further work to complement the information presently available.

Species Sampled

In Ontario, species sampled include: Canada Goose, Lesser Snow Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon.

In Quebec, species sampled include: Canada Goose, Greater Snow Goose, Lesser Snow Goose, Brant, Mallard, Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Eider, King Eider, Oldsquaw, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Spruce Grouse, Willow Ptarmigan, Rock Ptarmigan, Thick-billed Murre, Black Guillemot, Herring Gull, Glaucous Gull. Eggs of Canada Goose, Common Eider, Black Guillemot and Herring Gull were also sampled from northern Quebec.

Results

Since human health implications of consuming waterfowl were of primary concern, breast muscle, as representative of the edible portion of waterfowl, was targeted for chemical analysis. Samples of breast muscle were analyzed for organochlorines, PCBs, mercury, cadmium, lead, arsenic and selenium.

During 1988-90, birds were collected from across Canada as part of a preliminary survey. The initial survey was followed by intensive regional surveys. The intensive survey for Ontario was conducted during 1990-91 and the one for Quebec, during 1991-92. Since 1988, 602 specimens representing 19 species of waterfowl and one other harvested species were collected through the collaboration of partners in Ontario (i.e. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, northern native hunters), and 856 specimens representing 27 species of waterfowl and 11 other harvested species as well as 20 eggs representing 4 species were collected with the cooperation of several partners in Quebec (i.e. Hydro-Quebec, Makivik Corporation, Fondation des oiseleurs du Quebec).

As expected, those species which feed at the top of the food chain (i.e. mergansers, oldsquaw, loons, gulls) contained the highest levels of contaminants. The exception to this is for lead, where elevated lead levels were measured in a variety of species due to undetected fragments of lead shot left embedded in the flesh after hunting and cleaning. Generally, however, the levels found were not unusual from a wildlife health point of view. Many of the species hunted in eastern Canada, particularly in Ontario and Quebec, are exposed to contaminants during overwintering or stop-over periods in the Great Lakes.

Based on the 1988-92 data evaluated (plus some earlier Ontario data from 1985-86), Health Canada has advised that *"For the most part, the contaminant levels reported in the various waterfowl samples analyzed were either non-detectable or very low and would not be considered to pose a hazard to the health of consumers."* In a second letter based on data collected during 1992-93, Health Canada advised that *"... consumption of the breast muscle and/or egg of the species reported except for Glaucous Gull from Kuujjuarapik, Quebec, would not pose a health hazard to the consumer."* The concern about Glaucous Gulls is *"... based on the levels of total chlordane, PCBs and mirex found in this single composite of two individual breast muscles of glaucous gull from Kuujjuarapik, Quebec ..."*.

Health Canada made some additional recommendations: *"Finally, there are a number of precautionary measures that could be taken to minimize exposure to chemical contaminants resulting from consumption of waterfowl. For example, cleaning and inspection of waterfowl as soon as possible after they are shot and careful removal of any visible lead shot would help to minimize exposure to lead. In addition, the use of cooking techniques which would eliminate as much fat as possible, particularly in the case of fish-eating waterfowl, would help to minimize exposure to organochlorine contaminants."*

Contact:

Dr. Birgit Braune
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Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
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Environment Canada's Review of Regulations

As part of a government-wide initiative beginning in 1992, Environment Canada undertook a review of, among other regulations, the Migratory Birds, Migratory Bird Sanctuary and Wildlife Area Regulations, to improve Canada's competitiveness and environmental sustainability. As a result of this review and of a previous review initiated by the Canadian Wildlife Service, amendments have been made and will continue to be made to these Regulations. Many of these amendments will also respond to concerns raised by the Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations.

A report on the preliminary findings and recommendations resulting from the review was released to stakeholders for comments in November 1993. Since only a few responses were received during the consultation, the recommendations outlined in the discussion document are being considered as CWS' final recommendations. Outstanding concerns will be addressed as various individual regulatory proposals are made.

Several simple and non-controversial amendments to the Wildlife Area Regulations and Migratory Birds Regulations were made in September and November 1994. Preliminary work is underway so that the outstanding recommendations can be implemented in 1995 and 1996.

Those interested in receiving further information should contact:

Bob McLean
Acting Chief, Program, Analysis and Coordination
Canadian Wildlife Service
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H3

Wildlife Area Regulations - 1995 Amendments

It is proposed to establish National Wildlife Areas (NWAs): Igalirtuuq (Isabella Bay in NWT), Porto-bello Creek (NB), Nirjutiqavvik (Coburg Island in NWT), and Nisutlin Delta River (Yukon). In addition, it is proposed to enlarge the following NWAs: Cap Tourmente, Pointe de l'Est, Lake St-François, Pointe-au-Père, Iles de Contrecoeur, and Iles de l'Estuaire in Quebec; and Shepody in New Brunswick. The legal description for Iles de la Paix in Quebec will be corrected.

The amendments will serve to conserve key habitat for migratory birds and other species.

On March 21, 1995, (SI 95-42) Cabinet assigned to the Minister of the Environment the administration of certain public lands: Porto-bello Creek, Nirjutiqavvik, Cap Tourmente, Pointe de l'Est, Lake St-François, and Pointe-au-Père. This authorization is required before the regulation to create or enlarge these wildlife areas can be processed. A similar authorization is expected in April relating to Nisutlin Delta River.

The proposal to amend the Wildlife Area Regulations by adding admission fees to the Cap Tourmente NWA was approved on January 31, 1995 (SOR/95-78). The admission fees collected will finance all costs of awareness activities in the NWA.

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations - 1995 Amendments

In 1995, it is proposed to establish a Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) at Gros Mécatina in Quebec. Two Quebec MBSs will be reduced: Montmagny and Ile Carillon. Other MBSs will be revoked: Ile St-Ours, Kamouraska Island, Iles Pèlerins, Iles du Pot à l'eau-de-vie, Ile aux Fraises, and Ile Blanche (Que); and Pinafore Park (Ont). In the cases of the revocation of sanctuary status in Quebec, a wildlife area status will still apply. It will not be possible to process for this year the proposed enlargement to Port Hebert (NS).

The amendments to establish or enlarge an MBS will set aside and protect key habitat for migratory birds. Once established, MBSs are reviewed to ensure that they still warrant sanctuary status. Some of the amendments are a result of these reviews. Any MBSs no longer of conservation value will be considered for exchanges, transfers, or other measures, so that there is no overall reduction to the habitat community.

Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA) - New Regulations

On December 17, 1992, WAPPRIITA received royal assent. However, regulations must be made before the Act can be proclaimed and enter into force as a law of

Canada. The new Act, once in force, will protect Canadian and foreign wild species from illegal trade. It will also protect Canadian ecosystems against the introduction of designated harmful species. These objectives will be reached through the new regulations.

The existing regulatory regime concerning wild species under the Export and Import Permits Act will be revoked and replaced with new regulations to be developed under the provisions of WAPPRIITA. These new regulations will incorporate the permit requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Other elements of the regulatory package are to be developed in response to the new provisions of WAPPRIITA.

Final approval of the first set of regulations and proclamation of the Act is expected by spring 1995.

Those interested in receiving more information should contact:

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Examination of federal and provincial roles in Migratory Bird Management

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and the provincial and territorial wildlife departments are working on defining a new relationship. It was realized there was a need to clarify our roles in wildlife management, and ensure that efforts are not duplicated.

There is currently a proposal to set up regional management bodies that would deal with conservation of all species of migratory birds. One task would be to develop strategies for harvesting migratory game birds. Within the contexts agreed to, the provincial and territorial wildlife agencies would develop specific regulations, issue licenses, manage habitat, and be responsible for much of the public information, education and enforcement. CWS would retain jurisdictional authority and accountability for migratory birds through the Migratory Birds Convention Act. CWS would continue to secure nationally significant lands, coordinate research, the gathering of data, and development of strategies needed to manage migratory birds. This model is already being followed to varying degrees. For example, the Prairie Canada Mallard Harvest Strategy is used by the provinces for developing hunting regulations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Ultimately, agreements will be entered into that will formalize the details of the revised roles in migratory bird conservation.

Because of the initiative to harmonize the government roles, and also resulting from a recent reduction in resourcing of CWS programs, there is a need to scrutinize our data collection programs. To do this, a group has been established to establish the "data requirements needed for managing migratory game birds". The tools that can be used to gather different kinds of data for management are being discussed, as well as the kinds of research on which we need to focus. There is consideration being given to the many uses of migratory game bird status information, of which the development of hunting regulations is only part.

If you wish to comment on the federal/provincial/territorial effort to harmonize roles in conservation of migratory birds, please write to one of the contacts listed on page 3

Literature Cited

CWS. 1994. Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada with Proposals for 1995 Hunting Regulations (December 1994). Unpubl. rep. of the Can. Wildl. Serv.

Taylor, P.S. 1995. Prairie Canada Habitat Report (Spring 1995) to the Flyway Waterfowl Technical Committees. Unpubl. rep. of the Can. Wildl. Serv., Prairies & Northwest Territories Region.

APPENDIX A

Figures and Tables

Figure 1: Sales of Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits, by province, 1968-1994.

year	Nfld	PEI	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta	B.C.	N.W.T.	Yukon	Canada
1968	17659	3645	9020	9553	37145	139273	38733	43624	53567	33272			385491
1969	19123	3791	8866	10068	39564	134344	41745	45469	53424	32834			389228
1970	21416	3905	9886	10293	46123	136533	39294	47875	59916	31355			406596
1971	23487	4501	11372	11158	50502	133594	41039	49525	62754	30230			418162
1972	23682	4492	12165	11338	53095	131428	41139	49990	63252	31032			421613
1973	27919	4972	15107	12868	57248	141238	41711	51318	66963	33458			452802
1974	25127	5038	13790	11916	58343	136465	37168	51489	66138	27765	591	322	434152
1975	30115	4963	13990	12930	63768	148670	42846	57723	69191	25918	721	485	471320
1976	29621	5756	13326	13743	66453	143816	46681	61669	75739	26561	893	513	484771
1977	36188	6158	15744	14209	72828	156895	46438	60029	82175	28357	902	607	520530
1978	37297	6396	16297	15249	74745	159698	50169	57958	77117	28561	821	638	524946
1979	35490	5888	14098	13409	73209	150224	49344	56174	77021	28263	755	584	504459
1980	31362	5802	14257	12471	76133	147952	48340	54081	79318	27943	732	525	498916
1981	31401	5611	14130	12287	75178	141677	46528	42856	66163	28243	764	514	465352
1982	31215	5461	13728	12759	72850	144436	45273	47236	64968	26522	800	572	465820
1983	30977	5898	13468	12758	67700	139569	40443	45383	61742	24170	750	474	443332
1984	31309	5525	12896	11486	65308	140521	35238	37720	51717	21892	850	496	414958
1985	25652	5171	10749	10354	60823	130089	31753	36445	44880	18753	713	361	375743
1986	25498	5300	11047	11083	59685	131930	33570	37692	45042	17924	692	358	379821
1987	21080	4959	10299	9897	55124	122472	30207	29930	40122	16259	523	391	341263
1988	23655	4906	10264	10646	57206	117310	25108	23258	34513	15595	496	367	323324
1989	24707	4838	10092	9971	54605	114292	23898	22916	34559	14694	420	308	315300
1990	24831	4625	10115	9974	54700	115130	22641	22964	32212	13851	431	240	311714
1991	20738	4209	10104	9997	53739	108802	22122	22410	29399	13601	352	300	295773
1992	19566	3455	8951	9210	48510	100723	19529	20329	24932	11774	341	252	273102
1993	19679	3175	8740	8882	47015	93815	18564	19574	23237	10937	319	283	259999
1994	19944	2927	9135	9385	46184	91605	18686	20077	22388	10518	319	292	254800

Note: values for 1994 permit sales are preliminary - February 1995. Also, total includes some sales where the province of sale was not recorded.

Figure 2: Sales of Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits

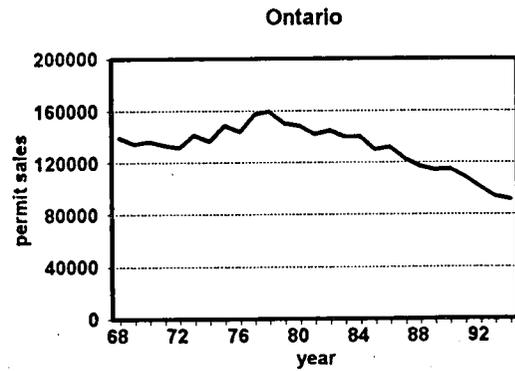
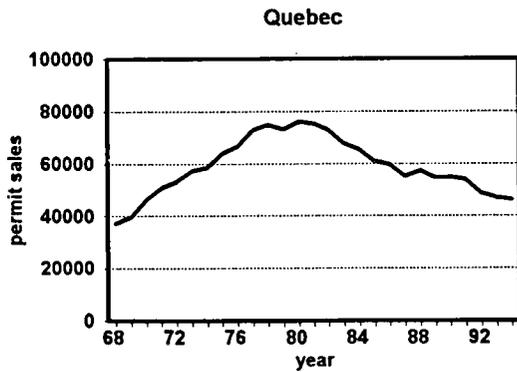
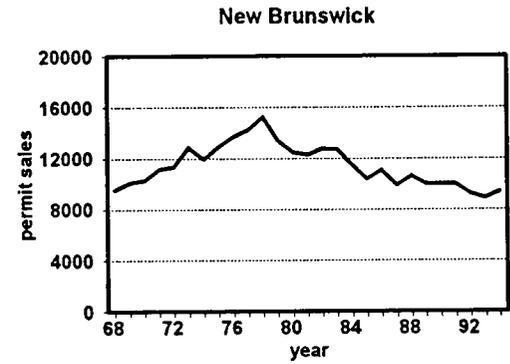
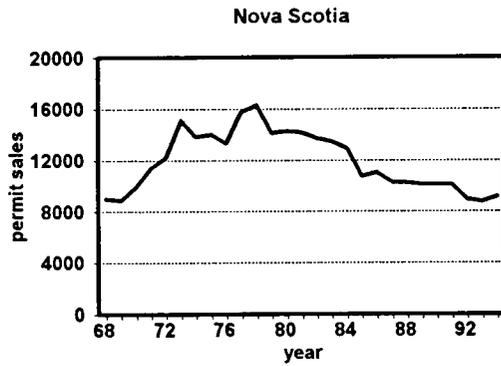
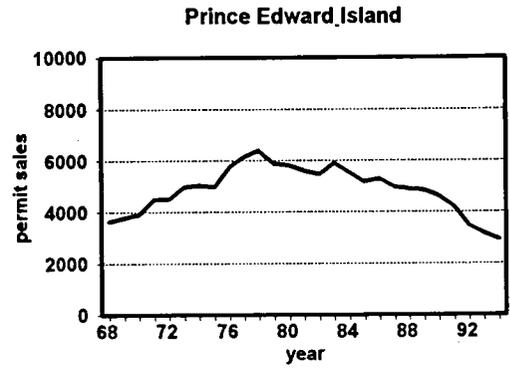
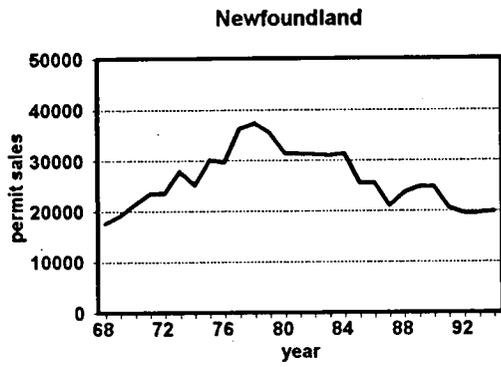


Figure 2: continued

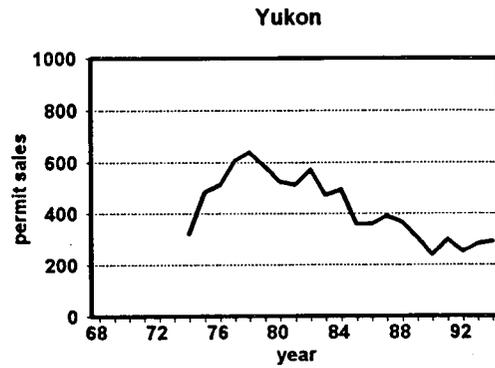
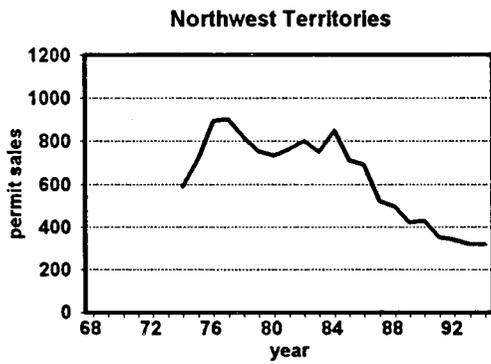
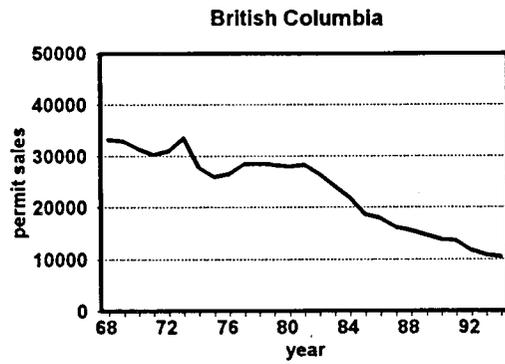
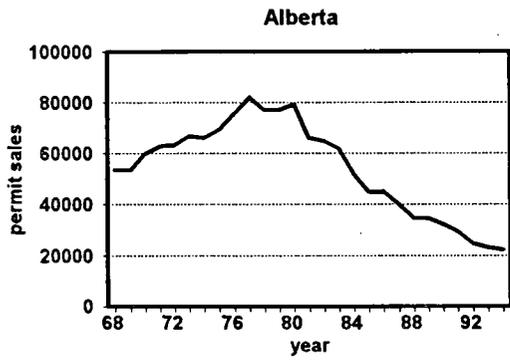
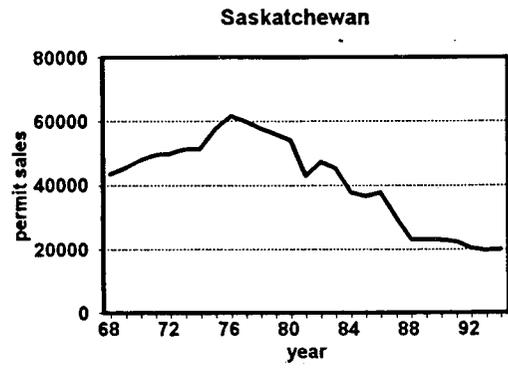
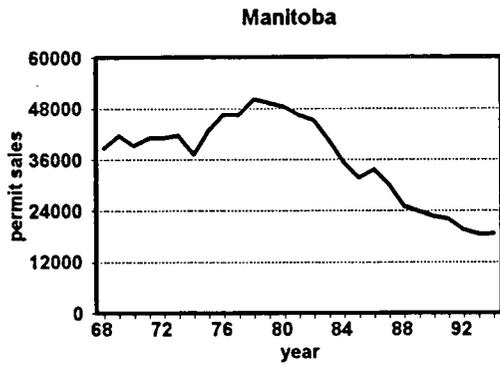


Figure 3: Unadjusted age ratios for mallards in the prairie harvest, 1972-1994

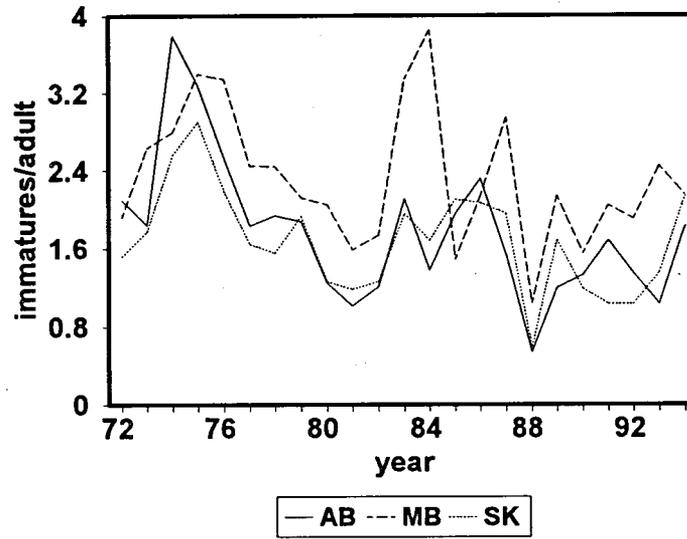


Figure 4: Unadjusted age ratios for black ducks in the eastern Canada, 1972-1994

