

of wait and see, bolstered only by the uncertain promise to ourselves that if things get tough (assuming they are not now) we will make plans to do something in the future. Bitter experience has taught us that such later plans, followed by much later actions, are always too late.

A second important feature of our work concerns our National Parks. Most of the National Parks provide living space for a profusion of species of flora and fauna typical of the Canadian scene. They are wonderful outdoor museums or natural zoological gardens in which we may see wildlife at its best. Our task is to keep them so. We investigate mammals, birds and fish, and advise the National Parks Service on management, helping to make our Parks serve one of their fundamental purposes—that of providing natural laboratories for wildlife research.

Since the Service was formed in 1947 we have been slowly building up our staff of northern wildlife biologists, and our range of interests has broadened more than proportionately. The wide range of species investigated in the north includes: caribou, moose, sheep, reindeer, muskrat, beaver, marten, white whales, Arctic fox, buffalo, musk ox, seals. For the officers of the Service working in the north, who travel by canoe, aircraft and dog team, with bombardiers, snow toboggans and Peterheads filling in, it is a rugged life but a challenging one.

In speaking of this research, I should like to mention especially our work on caribou. This was started in 1948 when a survey and research study of caribou in the mainland area between the Mackenzie River and Hudson's Bay was undertaken. Work has been carried on continuously since that time. Last April an 18-month research programme jointly financed by Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and the federal agencies and expected to cost about \$100,000 was begun, with the purpose in mind of staying with a caribou herd continuously from winter range to summer range.

The programme is being jointly staffed—your Wildlife Branch is providing two members of the team—and our Service has placed three wildlife biologists, a range specialist and a wildlife pathologist on this research.

I have outlined for you the work done by the Canadian Wildlife Service for conservation in Canada, and I should like to leave with you a challenge that I phrased in these words when speaking in Vancouver last year:

“We must insure that our people become intellectually and emotionally concerned with the land and water and the complex pattern of growth they support. Unless we can do this, to the end that every person, from the trapper and farmer to the business magnate and legislator, is proud to work with our living natural resources rather than ready to abuse them, we are fighting a losing battle.”

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Saskatchewan Natural History Society has Christmas cards for sale at \$1.25 a box (postage included). There are one dozen 4" x 5" folder-type cards in each box. The card is a coloured reproduction of Doug Gilroy's kodachrome photograph of Sharp-tailed Grouse. Cards may be obtained from the following persons:

P. Pawluck, 163 Peaker Ave.,
Yorkton.

Mrs. John Gerrard, 809 Colony
Street, Saskatoon.

Mrs. John Hubbard, Grenfell.

Frank Burrill, Indian Head.

Margaret Belcher, Secretary,
Blue Jay, Regina College,
Regina.