

The creation of the Wildcat Hill Wilderness area has been the result of the work of a great many organizations and individuals. The Regina Natural History Society held a series of field trips in the Hills the report of which appeared in the *Blue Jay* in 1964. The Saskatchewan Natural History Society passed in 1965 the first official motion asking for a wilderness area to be set aside and this was in turn supported by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation in 1965 and 1970. Mr. Mazure brought the matter to the attention of the provincial Homecoming Committee and obtained the support of the town of Hudson Bay. The sympathetic co-operation of the Simpson Lumber Company in withdrawing its cutting rights also contri-

buted in making the proposal possible. Indeed, fishermen, canoeists, naturalists, biologists, as well as many interested private citizens, have all assisted in creating a favourable climate of public opinion. Most important is the foresighted attitude of the Department of Natural Resources without which no progress could have been made.

The fascination of the Pasquia Hills, then, lies in their wild and inaccessible nature and in the knowledge that so many animal and plant species live within them. With the establishing of this first wilderness area all conservationists will experience a sense of pride and a further stimulus to work for the setting aside of other similar areas in the province.

## THE PROPOSED ARCTIC INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE

by **Everett B. Peterson**, Vancouver, B.C.

Members of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society will be interested in following the outcome of the conference on the Arctic International Wildlife Range because in the manner in which it was structured, its goals, and the various follow-up steps this conference could serve as a model for bringing together the interests of conservationists, industrialists and governments and for developing an approach to land management that all can endorse. While we must await the outcome of proposals from this conference, it is evident that it represented an important first step toward designation of an Arctic International Wildlife Range in an area that still possesses, comparatively unchanged, an unusually wide range of landforms and native life, including indigenous people. Of particular importance are the caribou, currently numbering in excess of 100,000, that have an international migration pattern in the area proposed for a Wildlife Range. The

habitat of these large herds is still intact but their future cannot be guaranteed without a substantial range that is permanently protected in both the Yukon Territory and Alaska.

The conference was held at Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, on October 21 and 22, 1970; it was hosted by the Yukon Conservation Society and was under the general chairmanship of Dr. A. R. Thompson, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia. Conference delegates, 50 from Canada and 14 from the United States, included representatives of the native peoples, Federal and Territorial governments, industries, universities, and several conservation organizations. The broad objective of the conference was to explore ways by which the diverse interests in the extreme northern part of the Yukon Territory might be adjusted to allow designation of a wildlife range in Canada that would be continuous with Alaska's Arctic Wildlife Range.

The conference proceedings will be published in the June issue of the University of British Columbia Law Review and will include the background paper prepared for the conference by Conservation Associates, San Francisco, all resolutions, and the following papers:

Opening address: J. Smith, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory.

*History and status of the Arctic National Wildlife Range*, J. D. Findlay, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.

*Wildlife resource and its conservation in northern Yukon Territory*, A. M. Pearson, Research Scientist, Canadian Wildlife Service, Whitehorse, Yukon;

*Some economic and social implications of the proposed Arctic International Wildlife Range*, P. H. Pearse, Department of Economics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

*The significance of the proposed wildlife range to industry*. E. L. Patton, President, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.;

*A legal structure for the proposed wildlife range*. A. R. Thompson, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

*Ice Age mammal research in the Yukon Territory and Alaska*, C. R. Harington, Curator of Quaternary Zoology, National Museum of Natural Science, Ottawa.

The central resolution of the conference dealt with land use and was worded as follows:

"This conference resolves that the uses which society as a whole may make of the area, including research, interpretation of natural and prehistoric cultural phenomena, wildlife and fisheries management, petroleum and mineral development, pipeline and other transport routes, disposition of surface deposits such as gravel and support of hunting and sport fishing, may be permitted on all or part of the range as will be determined by the management authority, under such restrictions and regulations as are necessary to

maintain wildlife populations and safeguard the traditional life of the native peoples."

An interim committee has been appointed to carry forward the conference resolutions and to seek to integrate the establishment of a wildlife range with the implementation of land use regulations under the Territorial Lands Act (1970). Members of the interim committee are: Ian McTaggart Cowan, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of British Columbia; John Tener, Director Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa; Michael Stutter, Yukon Territorial Councillor; Bob Cathro, Archer, Cathro and Associates, Consulting Engineers Vancouver; George L. Collins, Conservation Associates, San Francisco; Andrew R. Thompson, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia.

The proposal to establish a wildlife range has been presented to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and is now under study by officers of that Department. There has been a positive response to the suggestion that the initial step should be designation of the proposed wildlife range as a land management zone when the land-use regulations are brought into force. For this to occur there must be a continuation of the kind of support and enthusiasm that was displayed at the Whitehorse conference. To this end, a society is being incorporated under the Yukon Ordinances. It is visualized that the society will assist in a research and educational role for at least a five-year period until an Arctic International Wildlife Range and an established management authority become realities. Charter members of the society will be drawn from amongst those who attended the Whitehorse conference. Anyone else wishing to support the objectives of the proposed society and to become members-at-large should contact Mr. John Lammers, Box 1063, Whitehorse, Yukon.

Readers interested in a copy of the complete conference proceedings may obtain one from Mr. Dennis McCro, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 8, B.C.