



CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

The Canadian Wildlife Service is the federal government's agency for handling wildlife matters such as the protection and management of migratory birds and nationally- important wildlife habitat, species at risk, research on nationally-important wildlife issues, control of international trade in endangered species and international treaties. The CWS was born in the early 1900s with the growing concern over the diminishing population of migratory birds resulting in the signing of the Migratory Birds Convention in 1916 by Canada and the U.S. The Migratory Birds Convention Act provided the federal government with the authority to manage migratory birds and the Dominion Wildlife Service was created in 1947 to conserve Canada's bird and terrestrial mammal populations. In 1973, the Canada Wildlife Act allowed the federal government to undertake wildlife research and a wide range of wildlife conservation and interpretation activities.

The Canadian Wildlife Service focuses its efforts on the conservation of migratory birds through research, field surveys, and monitoring of populations with the most ambitious migratory bird conservation program initiated with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and a variety of partners; the conservation of other wildlife through its position on an international management boards to manage shared populations over land boundaries and providing expertise in research and conservation efforts; the protection of species at risk through its leadership on Canadian organizations established for this purpose and legislation to save and re-establish species at risk; the conservation of wildlife habitat through its work with concerned groups and agencies to establish refuges and sanctuaries and conduct environment impact studies to preserve the ecosystem in the presence of large-scale development projects; the monitoring of the effects of pollutants on wildlife through research and long range studies; and, partnering with local, national and international organizations with common goals and interests.

The CWS operates its regional headquarters in Edmonton with offices in western Canada and the Territories to conserve the wildlife and ecosystems of the Prairie Provinces, NWT and Nunavut through the ongoing application, advancement and communication of scientific knowledge.

Canadians are invited to work with the CWS to ensure that there will be abundant, healthy wildlife populations for the benefit of this and future generations. The CWS website (below) lists participation and volunteer opportunities and current projects. The contact information for the CWS is:

Canadian Wildlife Service

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