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The seal of the Department of the Interior, featuring a bison standing in a landscape with mountains and a sunburst, surrounded by the words "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR".  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release MONDAY, MAY 17, 1948.

## SURVEY OF WATERFOWL BREEDING GROUNDS IN CANADA NOW UNDER WAY

The survey of the Canadian waterfowl breeding grounds which the Fish and Wildlife Service makes each year is now in progress under the leadership of Robert H. Smith, Mississippi Flyway biologist, Albert M. Day, Service director announced today.

Mr. Day stated that the survey this year will be carried on in close cooperation with Canadian waterfowl officials and that survey crews would include representatives of both Dominion and Provincial Governments in addition to biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The field crews are using airplanes, automobiles, and boats to cover each of the Prairie Provinces. Supplementing the airplane observations, ground crews cover prescribed routes, following those of previous years, to determine the relative population trends.

Early reports received by Service officials in Washington from Mr. Smith and his field crews indicate that the surveys are going along nicely despite the conditions of the roads due to floods. According to Smith, "There is more water in the country that I have ever seen before."

The Service conducts this survey annually of the principal Canadian waterfowl areas to obtain accurate information on waterfowl populations, surface water conditions, breeding pairs, broods produced, mortality, and climatic conditions as a basis for preparing the annual waterfowl hunting regulations. Although the regulations which the Service recommends are based on year-round scientific investigations, the surveys made during the spring and summer are of vital importance because conditions on the breeding grounds during those months will determine the size of the crop and the success of the breeding birds that go north.

During the 1947 nesting season, 14 Service observers made 32,000 miles of aerial surveys and 28,000 miles of surface surveys and actual transects.

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