



United States
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service



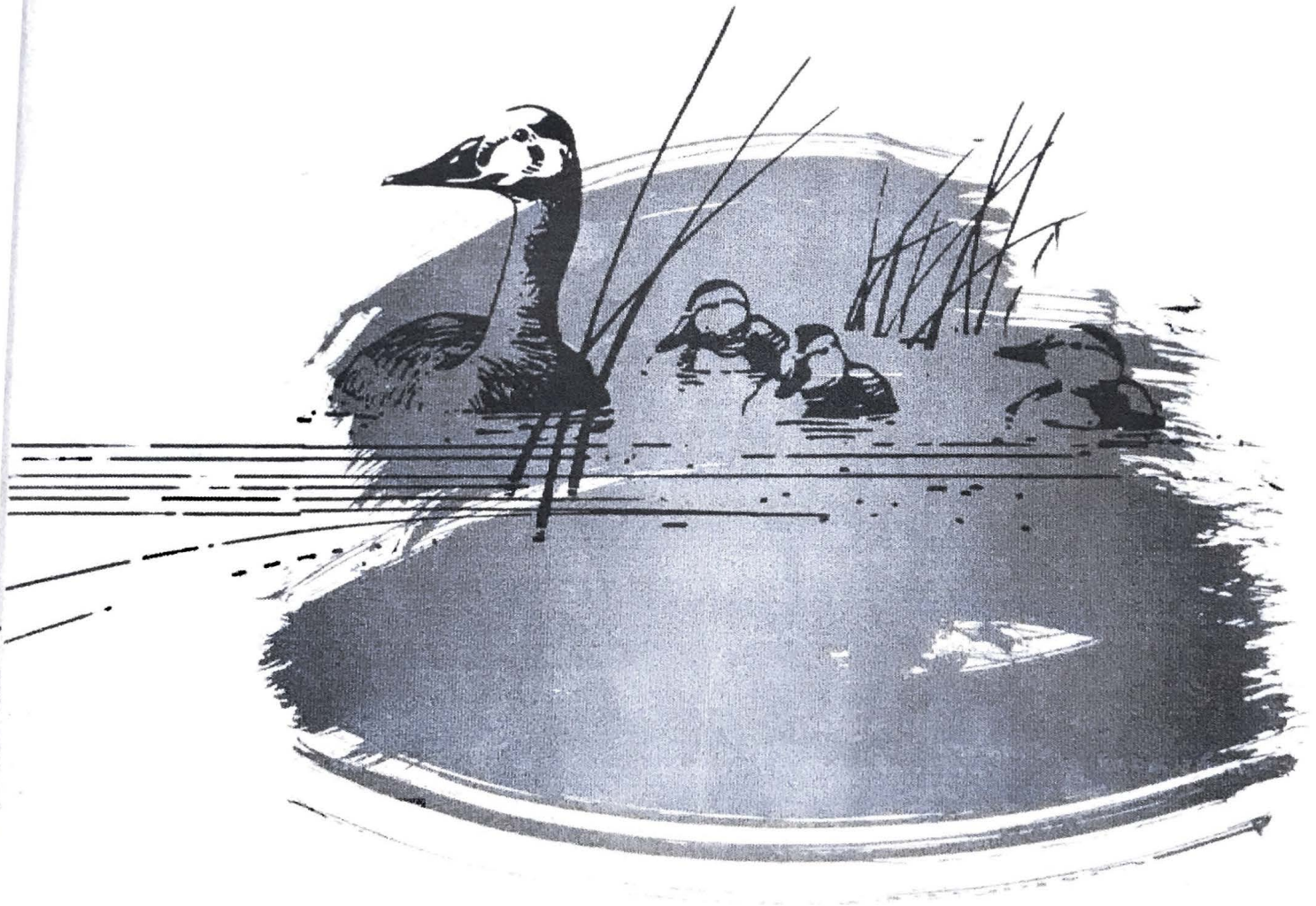
Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canadian Wildlife
Service

Service canadien
de la faune

NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN



Preface

In planning for the future of waterfowl, we must reflect upon the past, consider the present, and recognize and appreciate the tremendous efforts that have been made since the turn of the century on behalf of ducks, geese and swans by thousands of individuals, numerous private conservation organizations, and the state, provincial, territorial and federal governments of Canada, the United States and Mexico. Because of the dedication and spirit of these many people who have worked long and hard, millions of acres of wetlands have been saved from destruction, a large chain of waterfowl refuges spanning the flyways has been established, treaties and laws protecting waterfowl have been enacted and rigidly enforced, thousands of research projects have been undertaken, disease outbreaks have been fought, and millions of dollars have been expended to preserve and manage waterfowl habitat across the continent.

Despite these accomplishments, however, major waterfowl conservation problems have surfaced in recent years that should be addressed promptly. For example, losses of breeding, migration and wintering habitat have resulted in alarming declines in some waterfowl species.



Minister of the Environment
Canada

To cope with this, current programs are in critical need of expansion, and new initiatives should be devised and carried out.

This Plan presents what wildlife managers in the two countries believe to be appropriate waterfowl population goals to meet public demand, and actions needed to achieve those goals. It has been reviewed by public and private conservation organizations, and the general public; and many of their comments have been incorporated in the text. It provides information for those who enjoy and value waterfowl, and describes the actions and the size of the task necessary to achieve the goals.

The total cost of achieving the goals stated here is clearly too great to be borne by the national governments of the two signatory countries alone. It must be understood that this Plan is not a commitment by either signatory government to expend funds beyond its borders or to bear the total cost or responsibility for its execution; rather, it is a challenge to all those who enjoy and benefit from waterfowl to contribute their share toward its attainment.



Secretary of the Interior
United States