

*Birch Islands wilderness.*—The Birch Islands are a portion of the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge located in Washington County, Maine. There are two islands of about 7 acres and these are located about one-fourth mile offshore in the Whiting Bay portion of Cobscook Bay.

The Birch Islands have never been inhabited or visibly disturbed by man. They remain small "jewels" of unspoiled island wilderness. They are seldom visited. The soils are rocky and the vegetative covering is a mixture of trees and brush similar to that found on the mainland. At low tide, the two islands become one, but they are always separated from the mainland. Federal ownership extends to the mean high waterline. Since establishment of the refuge in 1937, the islands have been managed as natural areas, there has been no development.

A variety of bird species use the islands as a nesting, resting, and feeding area. Common loons, ducks, great blue herons, and other waterbirds are common, and many species of small shorebirds are present during migrations. In addition, the islands, in association with nearby coastal lands, support the largest wintering concentration of bald eagles on the eastern seaboard.

*Edmunds wilderness.*—The Edmunds wilderness proposal consists of about 2,775 acres of land within the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Washington County, Maine.

In colonial times the rolling forest hills of the Edmunds Unit were dominated by majestic white pine. Logged-off in the 1800's and then swept repeatedly by fires, recovery has progressed slowly since the establishment of the national wildlife refuge in 1937. The existing second growth timber will one day be replaced by the stately pines, spruces, and cedar which once covered the hills, swamps, and stream bottomlands. There will be scientific interest in the changing ecology, as years pass, by both the serious student and casual visitor.

During and after the public hearing for the Edmunds Unit, a number of citizens recommended that a portion of the area identified as the Baring unit be included in this wilderness proposal. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will study the proposed Baring unit and schedule it for a public hearing at a future date.

*Huron Islands wilderness.*—Huron Islands wilderness contains about 147 acres and constitutes the total landmass of the Huron Island National Wildlife Refuge, Marquette County, Mich. The refuge consists of eight small islands located about 3 miles off the south shore of Lake Superior.

The islands themselves are composed of granite upthrusts, and only the hardiest of plants can survive. Red and white pines, balsam fir, white birch, and white cedar hold tenaciously to the few sheltered crevices, the raves of wind, ice, and sleet are evident in their gnarled, picturesque growth. Lichens and mosses cover the exposed boulders and rocks. The whole is a delicate, ecological complex of wild picturesque beauty.

Several of the smaller islands are almost devoid of vegetation. On these, large colonies of gulls nest and raise their young. These islands are considered to be the major nesting area for herring gulls in the Lake Superior region.

Located a considerable distance from access points, the islands can be reached only under favorable conditions. They present an oppor-