

SASKATCHEWAN BIRD BANDERS.

4. R.H. Carter, Jr., MUSCOW. Beginning his banding activities in 1923, R.H. Carter, Jr., has banded a total of 4710 individuals of 71 species. House Wrens top his list with 1172 individuals banded, followed by Slate-colored Junco (777); Tree Sparrow (334); Black-capped Chickadee (223); Clay-colored Sparrow (165); American Crow (155); White-throated Sparrow (141); Barn Swallow (137); Catbird (133) and Robin (113).

Unusual birds banded by Mr. Carter include American Bittern (6); Sharp-shinned Hawk (4); Cooper's Hawk (2); Pigeon Hawk (4); Ruffed Grouse (36); Black-billed Cuckoo (3); Richardson Owl (3); Saw-whet Owl (9); Belted Kingfisher (1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (9); Canada Jay (2); Blue Jay (10); Long-billed Marsh Wren (2) and Spotted Towhee (11).

In the early years of his banding, Mr. Carter banded nearly all birds as nestlings. More recently he has used a Flat Trap (a trap with a hinged flap at one end supported by a stick. When a string is pulled by the operator, the flap drops down to trap the birds inside). Hawks were banded as nestlings, but a number of crows were caught in No. 1 steel traps, which had a steel wire to keep the jaws (which were wrapped with cloth) from closing too tight.

Mr. Carter has obtained no less than 12 recoveries from the 31 Red-tailed Hawks which he has banded. One Red-tailed Hawk, banded June 29/24 was killed at Ethel, Louisiana, Jan. 17/38, when the bird had attained the ripe old age of slightly over $13\frac{1}{2}$ years! Another Muscow Red-tail was caught at Rose, Kansas, $11\frac{3}{4}$ years after banding, while another individual was killed at Burton, Texas, at the age of $10\frac{1}{2}$ years.

A number of Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and Black-capped Chickadees returned to his station regularly each winter. One Hairy Woodpecker reached the age of $9\frac{1}{2}$ years, and a Chickadee returned six years after it was banded. A Crow was shot at the nearby Pasqua Indian Reserve 7 years after it was banded. A Bank Swallow banded July 7/29 was found dead, El Carmen, Rio Madre de Dios, Territory de Colonias del Norte, Bolivia, in June, 1935! The bird was then six years old.

A Bittern banded by Mr. Carter travelled to Burr Oak, Ark.; a Flicker flew to Terrill, Texas; A Swainson's Hawk was shot at Ellendale, N.D.; and a House Wren was found injured at Wells River, Vermont. An adult male Cowbird, banded June 13/29 was found dead at San Juan, New Mexico on July 2/29. This bird had travelled over 1000 miles in 18 days. (A similar record of a cowbird migrating south in the middle of summer is listed in Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota" - in this case the bird took from July 1 to Aug. 9 to travel from Minnesota to Texas. Perhaps extensive banding of this species would prove that there is a regular southward migration of male cowbirds at this time of year).

Mr. Carter has records of five Black-capped Chickadees which were banded in the winter, and caught again at their nests in the summer. This proves that some, perhaps all, of the wintering Chickadees remain in the same district all year, although many observers claim that there is a definite migration of Chickadees each Fall. Perhaps the immature birds are the wanderers.

As has been noted above, Mr. Carter has more or less specialized in House Wrens. He received a good percentage of returns from his adult wrens (of 79 adults banded in 1927 and 1928, when he banded House Wrens extensively, 16, or over 20% returned the following year). He found that the wrens keep the same mate for one year, even though they raise several broods, but that they never keep the same mates for two years in succession, nor do they often return to the same nest. Of 800 or 900 nestlings banded, only four were caught the next year by Mr. Carter. However, one was caught at nearby Lipton, where she had a nest. Probably most young birds return to the same general district the next year, say within a radius of fifty miles, but not to the immediate locality where they were raised.

A Tree Swallow, banded at Regina by J.A. Briggs, was caught by Mr. Carter at Muscow two years later. At that time it was raising young.