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SASKATCHEWAN BIRD BANDERS.

1. Wotherspoon Bros., HYAS. The Wotherspoon Brothers (Lindsay and Bill) of Hyas, Sask., first began banding in 1933 and since then have banded 885 birds. Their two best years were 1932 and 1938 when they banded 202 and 229 birds, respectively. Bands have been placed on 42 different species, the most unusual of which are: Leconte's Sparrow (9); Sharp-tailed (Nelson's) Sparrow (1); Lincoln's Sparrow (4); Pied-billed Grebe (1); Sprague's Pipit (1); Hermit Thrush (1) and Lapland Longspur (1).

Slate-colored Juncos top the Wotherspoon list with 377 individuals banded, followed by Purple Finch (114); House Wren (67); Robin (35); Song Sparrow (28); Goldfinch and White-throated Sparrow (25 each) and Crow (23).

Drop traps were used the first year, but since then Potter traps (when bird steps on bottom of trap, it trips the catch to shut door) and Government Sparrow Traps (with double funnel) have been used. Marsh Hawks, Crows and a number of songbirds have been banded as young in the nest.

Remarkable success has been had with Marsh Hawks. Out of 18 birds of this species banded, 7 have been heard from. Of a family consisting of three young banded on July 27, 1933, one was reported from New Orleans, La., Nov. 24, 1933; another from Beaumont, Texas, Dec. 20, 1934; and the third from Edna, Texas, on Oct. 21, 1935. Two birds of another family, banded July 7, 1933, were both heard from that fall - one at Archie, Mo., Sept. 9/33 and the other at Wynnewood, Okla., Nov. 11/33. Other Hyas marsh hawks were killed at Temple, Texas, and Davie, Fla.

The Wotherspoons' records produce additional evidence of the longevity of certain species. A chickadee banded Nov. 28, 1932, returned 5 years later to the same traps, Dec. 5, 1937. A crow banded June 25, 1933 was shot at Fulda, Sask. April 26/39, or nearly six years later. A Hairy Woodpecker banded Dec. 17, 1931 was recovered at nearby Lintlaw in the Fall of 1939, at which time it was at least eight years old.

An interesting record was the recovery of a Bronzed Grackle, banded May 4/34, which was caught in a muskrat trap only half a mile away, on May 10 of the next year. Crows have travelled to Sargent and Wisner, Neb., and Blanchard, Okla., while Robins have gone as far as Wells, Texas, and Hermitage, La.

For several years, due to pressure of farm work, the Wotherspoon Brothers have been unable to devote much time to banding. However, they hope to do even more in this, their favorite hobby, after the war.

2. Arthur Ward, BURNHAM. Mr. Arthur Ward, the Reeve of R.M. Coulee No. 136, has been banding since the fall of 1938, and has banded 198 birds of 32 species to date. He uses one trap only, which is 3' x 4' x 28" in size, and of the funnel type. A pail suspended above the trap provides a constant drip of water as an inducement to the birds, since Burnham is on the dry, bare prairie. The beautiful grounds around Mr. Ward's home have been responsible for attracting many shade-tree birds, which he otherwise could not have banded.

The more interesting species banded include Long-billed Curlew (1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (2); Say's Phoebe (5); Ovenbird (1); Spotted Towhee (1); Lark Sparrow (1) and Bullock's Oriole (2). There have been few authentic records of the latter species in Saskatchewan, so it was quite an achievement to band two of these birds, which, according to Mr. Ward, were just visitors.

The greatest number of birds of any one species banded by Mr. Ward are Robins (56), with Tree Sparrows coming second (21), while Eastern Kingbirds and Barn Swallows - 12 each - share third place.

A Mallard, banded July 1, 1941, was shot at Mecca, California, on Nov. 29, 1941. A Brown Thrasher banded July 27, 1943 was found dead after a hailstorm near Lucky Lake, Sask., on June 23, 1944.

Two Robins re-trapped in 1942 had been banded by Mr. Ward in 1940 and 1941, while a Barn Swallow banded in 1941 returned to its nesting place in 1942. Other birds, with bands on their legs, are occasionally seen around the grounds but do not come into the trap to permit a check.