

SASKATCHEWAN BIRD BANDERS*

JOHN R. CARTER OF MUSCOW

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John R. Carter began banding at Muscow, Saskatchewan, in 1929, five years after his brother obtained a permit. By 1952, before moving to Woodlands, Manitoba, he had banded 1739 individuals of 61 species. Most of his birds were banded in the first five years — with declining consecutive yearly totals of 642, 379, 211, 207 and 98 individuals banded, perhaps reflecting increasing pressure of farm work.

Remarkable success was obtained with Red-tailed Hawks: six recoveries from only eleven birds banded (*Blue Jay*, 25:110, September, 1967). This makes a total of 22 recoveries from 51 Redtails banded by the two Carter brothers at Muscow between 1923 and 1939 — an example of what valuable information can result from banding only a few individuals per year.

From 11 Crows banded there were three recoveries (Oklahoma, Kansas and Meota, Saskatchewan) and from three Marsh Hawks, one recovery from Rolla, Kansas. A Cooper's Hawk nestling, banded on June 28, 1929 was shot by Joe Hardy at Balcarres, Saskatchewan on September 16, 1929. This was the third nest and the first banding recovery for this species, which was still listed only as "hypothetical" in Mitchell's *Birds of Saskatchewan* in 1924.

A nestling Great Horned Owl, banded May 22, 1932, travelled about 115 miles southeastward to be shot at Moose Mountain Indian Reserve near Manor, Saskatchewan, about November 3, 1933. This was presumably the furthest travel of a banded Great

Horned Owl to that date, since it was published in Frederick C. Lincoln's chapter, "Interesting Recoveries of Banded Birds", in the National Geographic Society's *The Book of Birds*, published in Washington in 1937.

Of 26 Mallards banded, three were shot in Saskatchewan, one in Iowa and one in Oklahoma. A Blue-winged Teal was shot at Sarasota, Wyoming. Eight recoveries and three returns from the Bronzed Grackle are listed elsewhere in this issue.

Another very interesting recovery was that of an immature Eastern Kingbird banded at Muscow on July 25, 1950 and found dead on a porch at Rio Frio, Texas on March 5, 1953. A young Baltimore Oriole banded July 1, 1938 was caught by a cat in Iowa (412-0950) on September 3, 1938.

A major effort in the first five years was the banding of 624 House Wrens. Only one nestling wren was later caught at its nest on the Carter farm and this was three years later. Of 11 adult wrens retrapped at their nests, nine were in the following year, one was two years later and one was three years later.

Others under the category of "returns" (birds retrapped in succeeding years) included the following: five Clay-colored Sparrows, one Yellow Warbler, one Catbird, one Downy and one Hairy Woodpecker and two Black-capped Chickadees. All were adults when banded. The best return record was of a Black-capped Chickadee which was banded December 5, 1929, then was caught on its nest nearby on June 1, 1930 and finally had its tiny band read through the window as it perched on the window-sill on February 1, 1933.

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