

SASKATCHEWAN BIRD BANDERS — FRED G. BARD*

by C. Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon

Beginning in a small way with six birds banded in 1928 and four in 1929, Fred G. Bard soon increased the tempo of his banding until his peak year of 1938 when he banded 1925 birds of 46 species. His father, Fred Bard, Sr., had a subpermit between 1939 and 1948 and banded 717 individuals of 33 species, and at times Bard was also assisted by members of the Museum staff. There was little opportunity for banding during the war years and the pressure of museum work caused little banding to be done after 1950, three years after Bard became director of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.

Bard's all-time banding totalled 13,363 individuals of 103 species. One important activity was waterfowl banding, much of it in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited, with 3549 ducks, geese and coots banded. An equally important contribution was the banding of colonial birds. For this purpose, Bard visited Big Quill Lake, eight miles north of Dafoe, in 1931, 1932 and 1935; Big Quill, two miles north of Kandahar, in 1936 and 1937; Last Mountain Lake east of Holdfast in 1937; the north end of Last Mountain Lake in 1934, 1936, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1952; Old Wives Lake in 1958. In his active years, these banding totals surpassed and the number of recoveries far exceeded, those of any other bander in Saskatchewan. For the tabulation in Table 1 of banding and recoveries by species, all but the waterfowl recoveries have been verified by computer printout.

I have mapped the following: White Pelicans banded at Quill Lake, White Pelicans banded at Last Mountain Lake, Double-crested Cormorants banded at Quill Lake, Double-crested Cormorants banded at Last Mountain Lake 1934-37 and Double-crested Cormorants banded at Last Mountain

Table 1. Summary of bird banding by F. G. Bard.

Species	Number Recoveries	Number Banded	Per cent Recoveries
White Pelican	958	86	9.0%
Double-crested Cormorant	2038	371	18.5%
Great Blue Heron	31	2	.....
Black-crowned Night Heron	21	1	.....
Canada Goose	196	14	7.2%
Mallard	2570	404	15.8%
Gadwall	49	8	16.3%
Pintail	196	59	30.0%
Blue-winged Teal .	300	8	2.7%
American Widgeon	81	9	11.1%
Shoveler	60	3	5.0%
Lesser Scaup	15	2	.....
Ferruginous Hawk	4	1	.....
Marsh Hawk	24	3	12.5%
Sharp-tailed Grouse	28	1	.....
American Coot	42	1	.....
Killdeer	26	1	.....
Ring-billed Gull	2408	110	4.6%
Franklin's Gull	270	3	1.1%
Common Tern	1244	2	.2%
Mourning Dove.....	80	1	.....
Yellow-shafted Flicker	77	3	3.9%
Eastern Phoebe	6	1	.....
Tree Swallow	22	1	.....
Barn Swallow	49	3	6.1%
Black-billed Magpie	90	24	26.6%
Common Crow	781	167	21.7%
House Wren	249	1	.....
Catbird	205	4	2.0%
Brown Thrasher ..	63	3	4.8%
Robin	160	5	3.1%
Cedar Waxwing....	85	1	.....
Yellow Warbler	64	1	.....
Red-winged Blackbird	90	2	.....
Common Grackle..	128	16	12.4%
68 other species ...	653	0	.....
TOTAL	13363	1322	9.9%

* No. 13 in a series of biographies of Saskatchewan bird banders.



Fig. 1. Recoveries of White Pelicans banded at Quill Lake by Fred G. Bard, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1936, 1937. Note: squares represent direct recoveries (same year); triangles — January 1 to June 30 of the following year; circles — more than one year old.

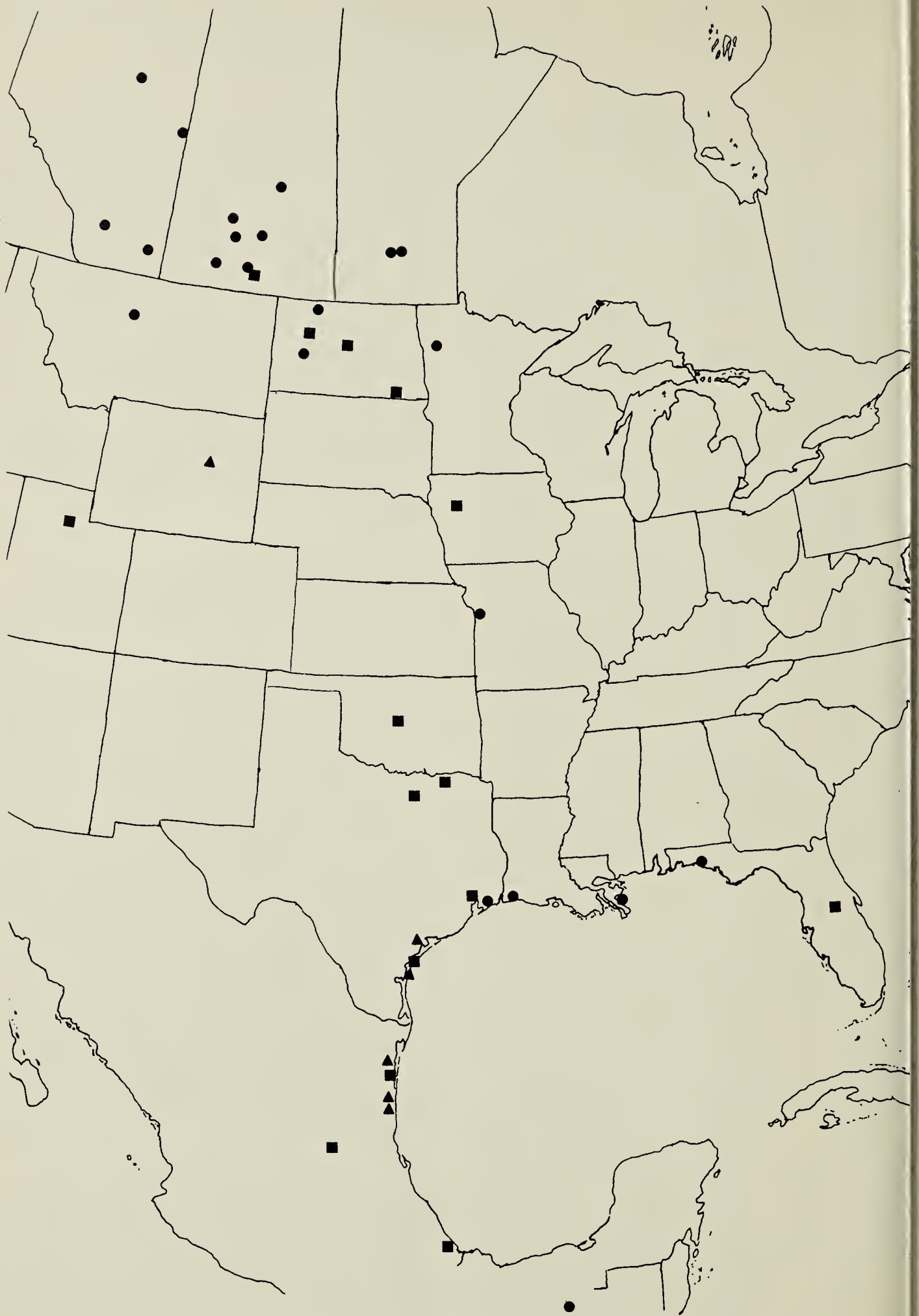


Fig. 2. Recoveries of White Pelicans banded at Old Wives Lake by Fre G. Bard, 1958. Note: squares represent direct recoveries (same year); triangle — January 1 to June 30 of the following year; circles — more than one year old

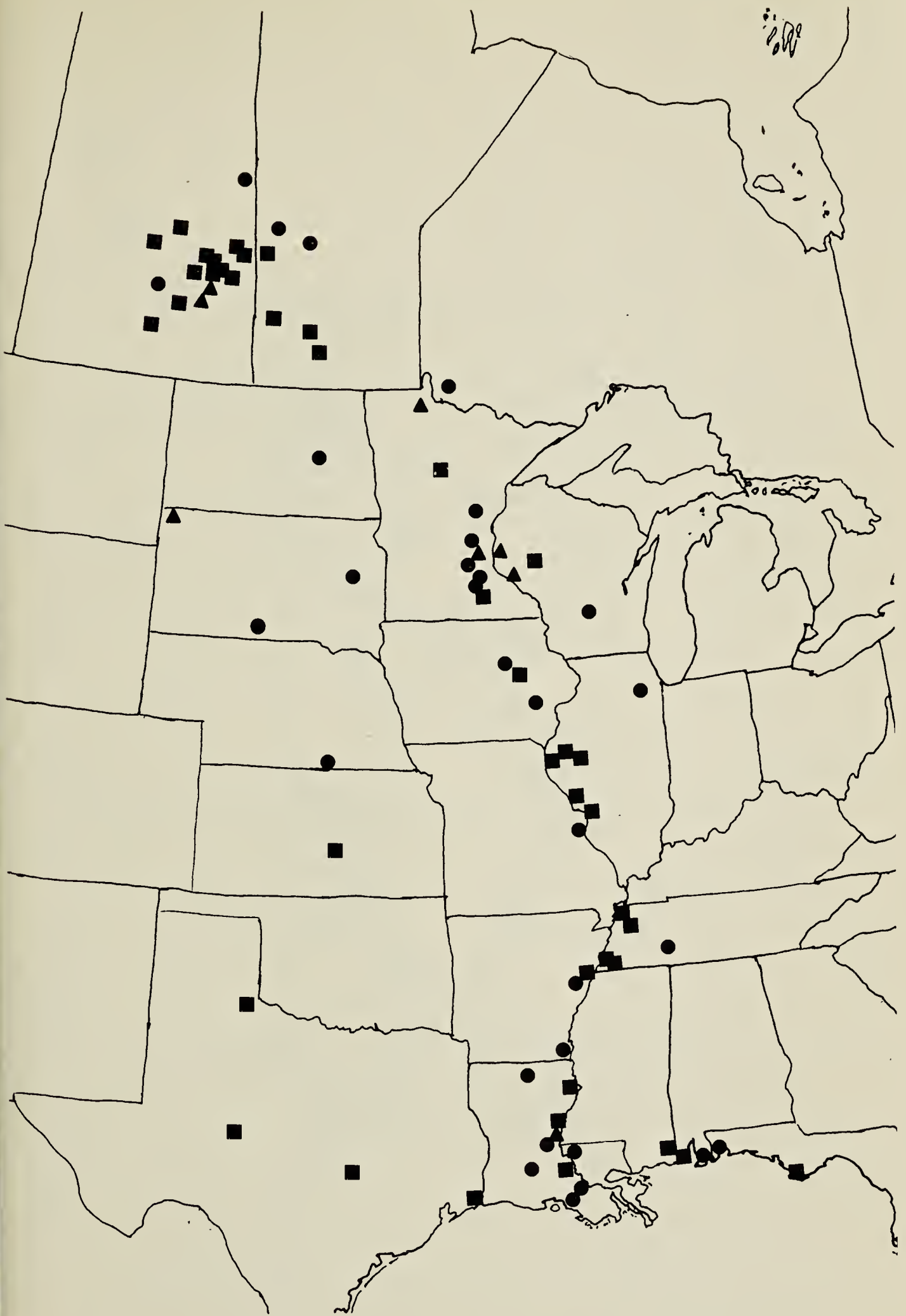


Fig. 3. Recoveries of Double-crested Cormorants banded at Quill Lake by Fred G. Bard, 1931, 1932, 1935, 1936. Note: squares represent direct recoveries (same year); triangles — January 1 to June 30 of following year; circles — more than one year old.

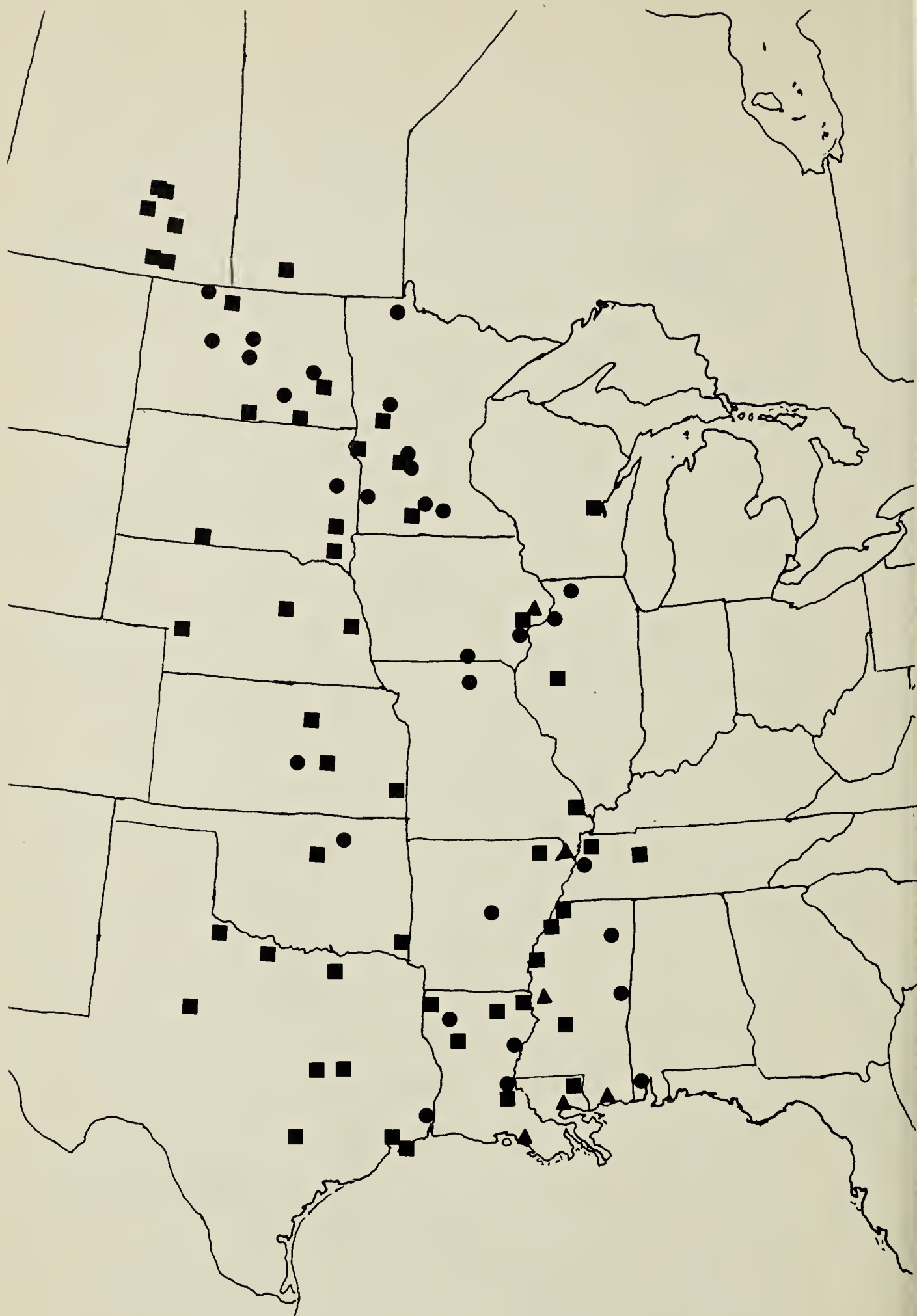


Fig. 4. Recoveries of Double-crested Cormorants banded at Last Mountain Lake by Fred G. Bard, 1934, 1936, 1937. Note: squares represent direct recoveries (same year); triangles — January 1 to June 30 of following year; circles — more than one year old.

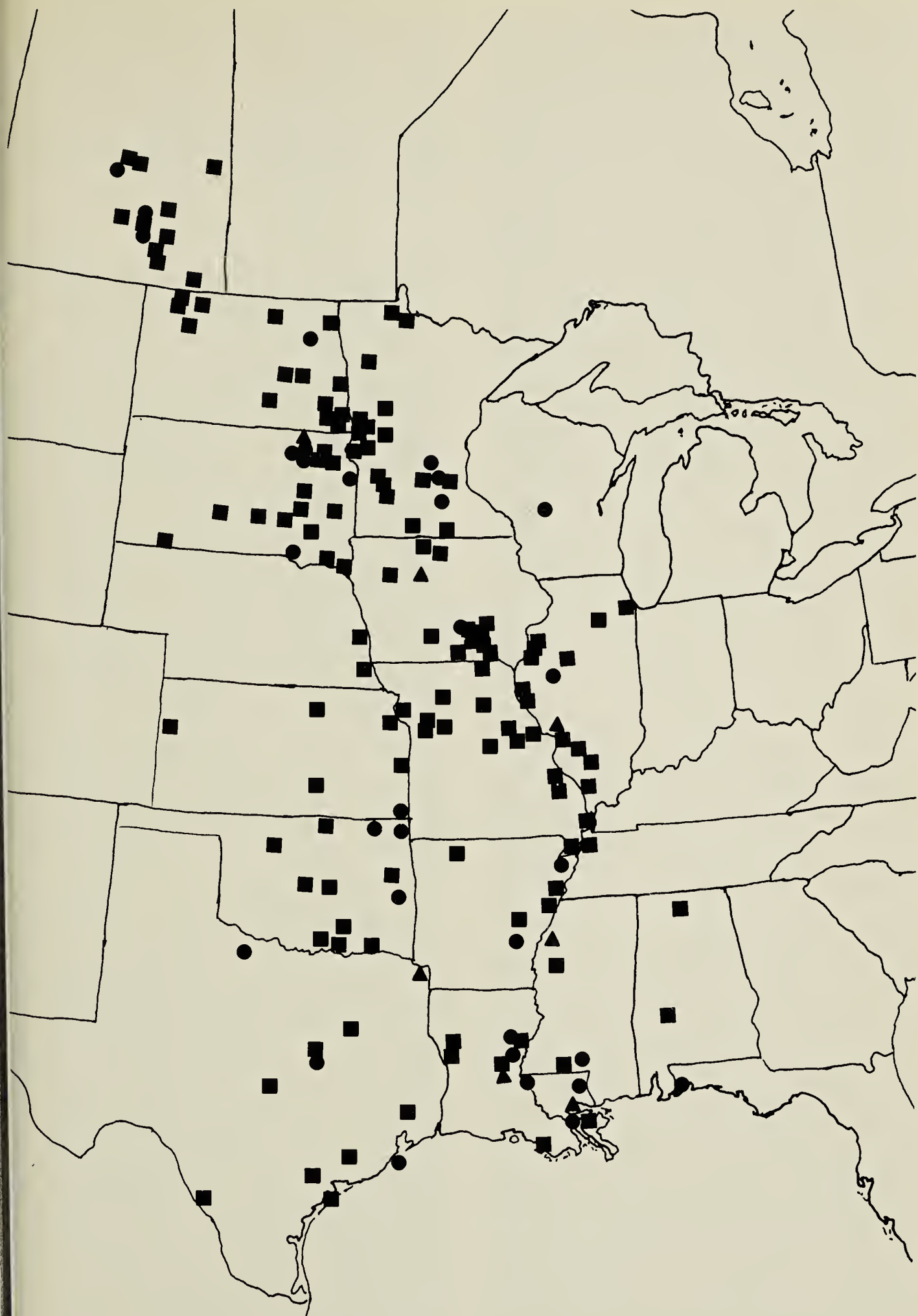


Fig. 5. Recoveries of Double-crested Cormorants banded at Last Mountain Lake by Fred G. Bard, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1948, 1949. Note: squares represent direct recoveries (same year); triangles — January 1 to June 30 of following year; circles — more than one year old.

Lake 1938-49. Note that the pelicans from Old Wives tend to go further west than those from Last Mountain and are more likely to be recovered in Alberta, Wyoming, Utah and Mexico, though two crossed over eastward to Florida. Cormorants from both lakes move south along the Mississippi and its tributaries, with no difference between those banded in the early years and later years. (Observers in the Illinois River valley and in Wisconsin noted a change in the migration of cormorants, with a sudden decline in their numbers, beginning after 1950).

One of Bard's White Pelicans appears to hold the world longevity record for this species. 378-00930 was placed on a flightless young pelican at Imperial Beach at the north end of Last Mountain Lake on July 9, 1948. It was found dead of starvation at Big Stone City, South Dakota on October 12, 1960, 12 years, 3 months and 3 days after banding. (The previous record was 10 years, 10 months, 9 days: Rydzewski, *The Ring* 34:177, 1963).

Bard's recoveries of Marsh Hawks (from Washington, Oklahoma and Texas), Robins (Mississippi and Oklahoma), Common Grackles (Minnesota and Louisiana), Common Crows (the entire tier of states from North Dakota south to Texas), and a Black-crowned Night Heron have been mapped in previous articles in the *Blue Jay*. The most impressive recovery was a Franklin's Gull banded July 8, 1938 at Buffalo Pound Lake and recovered from the dead gull on December 15, 1938 in Peru. It was found by Mr. Jose Oliveri E. Hijos at Urcon Hacienda, 8° 35' S., 77° 51' W. Other recoveries of interest include Great Blue Herons shot at Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico and Frederick, Oklahoma; a Ferruginous Hawk found dead in Kansas; a Killdeer killed at Annaudville, Louisiana; and a Mourning Dove shot in Louisiana. Flickers travelled to Iowa and Oklahoma, a Barn Swallow was found dead at Luverne, Minnesota, a Brown Thrasher was shot at Scurry, Texas and a Cedar Waxwing was shot at Frankling, Louisiana.

To Fred G. Bard I wish to express my thanks for the loan of his massive files of banding records, my appreciation for the magnificent museum he has left behind on his retirement, and my congratulations on his honorary doctorate. Well done, Dr. Bard!

ANNUAL MAY-DAY BIRD COUNT, SASKATOON, MAY 23, 1970

by Stan Shadick and J. F. Roy, Saskatoon

This year, 48 observers in nine parties established a new record of 162 species, five more than on May 24, 1969, when 49 observers recorded 157 species. Conditions were nearly ideal in the morning with occasional showers and light winds. By mid-afternoon strong westerly winds made birding difficult.

Records of interest include 277 Western Grebes (compared with 34 in 1969 and 12 in 1968); large numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers (368), Baird's Sandpiper (1210), Still Sandpiper (1560), and the irregular Buff-breasted Sandpiper (107). The highest tally for any single species was for the Northern Phalarope, 3,978 having been counted. The Short-eared Owl was again scarce, only one bird was counted (the same as in 1968), compared with last year's total of 32. Chestnut-collared Longspurs appear to be increasing in recent years; a record high of 271 were observed.

WEATHER: Temperature at 4:00 a.m. 57°; high during the day, 75°; at 9:00 p.m. 61°. Sky overcast to cloudy. Winds W to NW 10-15 mph with gusts to 24 in the afternoon. Rainfall 0.05".

SPECIES LIST (1969 numbers in brackets): Common Loon 1 (2); Red-necked Grebe 6 (4); Horned Grebe 130 (102); Eared Grebe 108 (35); Western Grebe 277 (34); Pied-billed Grebe, 17 (13); White Pelican, 7 (0); Great Blue Heron 3 (4); Black-crowned Night Heron 2 (0); American Bittern 8 (1); Whistling Swan 2 (1); White-fronted Goose 3 (5); Canada Goose 8 (0); Mallard 225 (222); Gadwall 85 (82); Pintail 224 (220); Green-winged Teal 82 (53); Blue-winged Teal 220 (170); American Widgeon 196 (142); Shoveler 213 (200); Redhead 115 (84); Ring-necked Duck 20 (22); Canvasback 183 (106); Lesser Scaup 238 (165); Common Goldeneye 14 (6); Bufflehead 22 (28); Ruddy Duck 118 (111); Common Merganser 4 (1); Turkey Vulture 2 (0); Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 (1); Cooper's Hawk 2 (5); Red-tailed Hawk