

BIRD BANDING AND NEST-BOX PROJECTS AT EDMONTON

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In 1970 we formed a banding group in Edmonton whose main interest was banding birds of prey. At a recent meeting, held January 13, 1972 at the home of Richard Fyfe, it was possible to summarize two years of banding activities (Table 1) and to review the programme and its problems.

Much of our banding has involved nestlings, but we have also used the Bal-shatri, mist nets, pole traps, and suede traps, which allow us to band adults. The 270 Sparrow Hawks which we banded were all caught with a Bal-shatri. The Snowy Owls were mainly caught with a mist net, and the Great Gray Owls and Hawk Owls were trapped with a Bal-shatri and banded at the nest. Most of the other birds were banded as nestlings.

The following have participated in the banding programme: Richard Fyfe, Ron Gallant, Bob Gehlert, Bob Gibbon, Keith Hodson, Edgar Jones, Bryan Nicolai, Ken Trann.

Some of us are also involved in a nest-box project, encouraged by the success of similar projects in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Edgar T. Jones allowed us access to his 228 acres of land on Hastings Lake as a starting point, and in the first year (1969) we set out 45 bluebird houses. The number was increased to 163 in 1970, and to 306 in 1971. Our trail is not yet extensive, but we are working out in all directions from Ed Jones' property.

In addition to the houses built to attract Mountain Bluebirds, we have put up two Purple Martin colony houses (which have had five pairs both in 1970 and 1971), and we have also set out larger houses for Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and the smaller owls. These have not been very successful, but we have had a pair of Goldeneye for three years in a row, and one pair of Boreal Owls. Most of the larger houses have been occupied by Flying Squirrels and Red Squirrels, and by

Starlings. We have attempted to destroy the Starlings by keeping the young birds from reaching maturity. House Sparrows were not a problem until this year when we began putting houses out along the roads between Sherwood Park and Hastings Lake. We have destroyed their nests and because House Sparrows seem to prefer houses close to farms, we are removing those nest boxes that are in the vicinity of farmsteads.

We have had very little vandalism, and we feel that the project has been a rewarding one. The results of the project are summarized in Table 2. We would like to think that some day our bluebird trail might join Saskatchewan's, just as Saskatchewan's trail is now linked with Manitoba's. The fol-

Table 1. Birds banded by Edmonton bird banders in 1970 and 1971.

Species	2-year	
	1970	1971 total
Goshawk	-	2 2
Sharp-shinned Hawk..	-	5 5
Cooper's Hawk	-	5 5
Red-tailed Hawk	25	5 30
Broad-winged Hawk ..	2	5 7
Swainson's Hawk	-	12 12
Ferruginous Hawk	65	139 204
Golden Eagle	-	6 6
Marsh Hawk	19	- 19
Prairie Falcon	116	140 256
Peregrine Falcon	2	14 16
Pigeon Hawk	91	138 229
Sparrow Hawk	56	214 270
Great Horned Owl.....	23	50 73
Snowy Owl	1	15 16
Hawk Owl	16	27 43
Great Gray Owl.....	6	15 21
Long-eared Owl	10	4 14
Short-eared Owl	36	7 43
Boreal Owl	-	1 1
Saw-whet Owl	-	1 1
Total individuals	468	805 1273

