

SASKATCHEWAN BIRD BANDERS -- WILLIAM ANAKA*

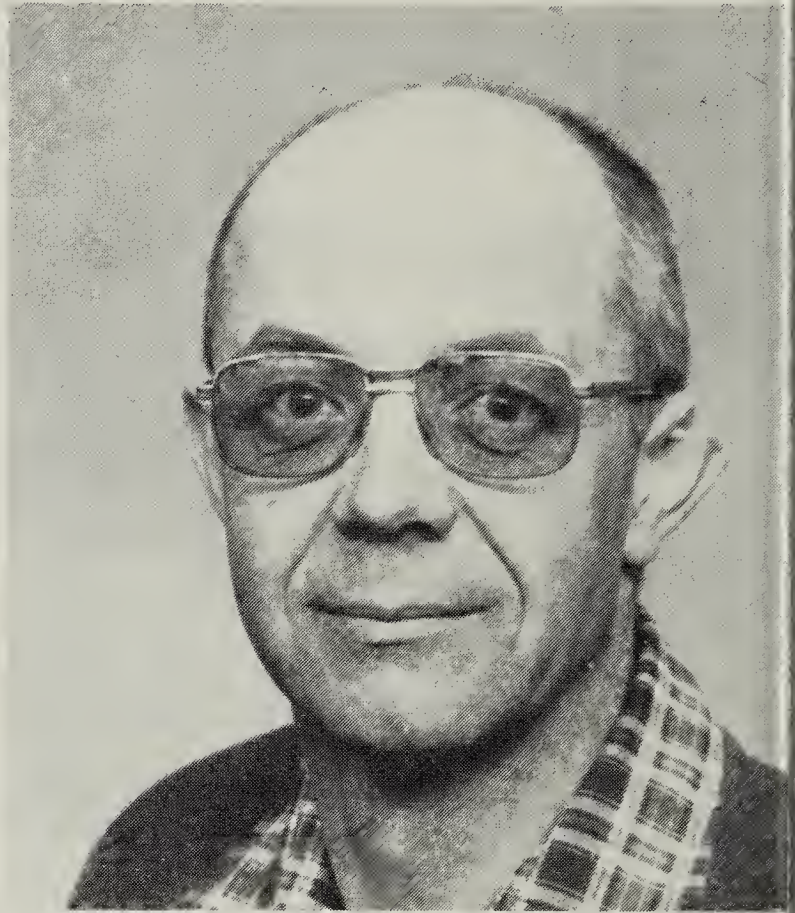
C. STUART HOUSTON, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.S7

Bill Anaka banded birds at and near the Anaka family farm (nw quarter of section 12, township 29, range 5) for 16 years, from 1955 through 1970. This farm was on the grid road just over a mile north of Highway 229, where it curves slightly around the north end of Horseshoe Lake, and was 2.5 miles east of Spirit Lake Post Office, which was at the extreme southern tip of Good Spirit Lake.

Bill attended Black Poplar school, three miles from home, for grades 1 to 10. He avidly devoured every nature book in the school library. He then operated the 480-acre family farm jointly with his father. Later he completed high school by attending evening classes at the Yorkton Regional High School for three years.

In 1968, he took a job with the Good Spirit Lake Regional Park, and soon after sold 160 acres of his farm to the park. He has continued to farm one quarter section of the home farm, which includes 40 acres of untouched natural habitat. He has seeded the former cropped area to grass.

Bill made a special effort to band herons, bitterns, raptors and corvids as nestlings, and banded small birds that visited his feeding station. In all, 1723



Bill Anaka

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birds of 51 species were banded with a satisfying number of recoveries from the larger birds. However, there were recoveries from six of the species which contributed high totals: Dark-eyed Junco, 277; White-throated Sparrow (153); White-crowned Sparrow (including 40 *gambelii* and 1 *leucurus* subspecies); Common Redpoll (2); Tree Swallow (35); Snow Bunting

At the nearby Horseshoe Lake Regional Park, Bill banded nestling Great Blue Herons in five different years. He banded only in those nests that were too far out on dead branches, with a maximum number of 24 in 1968.

* Number 14 in a series of biographies of Saskatchewan bird banders

n 1964, although there were, for
 ple, 24 nests in the colony with
 e young each in 1965. From a total
 3 nestlings banded, there were four
 eries, all during the fall or winter
 banding: found dead south of
 ton, Saskatchewan; found dead in
 veport, Louisiana; shot the same
 er in Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico;
 found dead near Dallas Texas.

23 nestling American Bitterns
 ed, one was killed when it flew
 a power line near Canwood, Sask-
 ewan, reported in a letter nearly
 years later, while another was
 d dead at Goodwater, Alabama, 4.5
 hs after it was banded.

22 Northern Harriers banded, one
 shot the same year near Blakely,
 gia, and another was shot a year
 banding near Woodbury, Georgia.
 of 38 banded Cooper's Hawks, one
 eported as found dead southwest
 uk Centre, Minnesota, in a letter
 nearly four years later. Of four
 onson's Hawks, one was
 eved" at Elmendorf, Texas, on 19
 of the year after banding.

From 10 Long-eared Owls banded,
 one was recovered near Monterrey,
 Nuevo Leon, Mexico; this was reported
 in a letter written five years later. Of 27
 banded Great Horned Owls, three were
 found dead within a mile or so of the
 banding site.

Four reports came from 108 Black-
 billed Magpies banded; one was shot
 near the banding site and one was
 trapped near Mikado, Saskatchewan,
 the same year, while one was caught in
 a trap near Hyas and another was shot
 at Moorepark, Manitoba, over a year
 after banding. From 175 Common
 Crows, there were eight recoveries: in-
 dividuals shot during their first south-
 ward migration at Seward, Kansas, and
 Waller, Texas, and during the second
 winter at Albert, Oklahoma. Two were
 shot less than ten miles from the band-
 ing site, 1 to 2.5 months after fledging,
 but three others returned to be shot
 three years later, within two miles of the
 nest in which they had been fledged.

From four Rusty Blackbirds, one
 banded during migration on 30 Oc-
 tober 1956 was found dead at Hecla,

1. NUMBERS OF BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE BAND RETURNS

<i>Years After Banding</i>									<i>Total</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Returns</i>	<i>Banded</i>	<i>Trapped</i>
										24	24
12									12	13	25
3	9								12	19	31
11	2	7							20	15	35
7	4	2	7						20	10	30
4	6	4	2	5					21	14	35
6	5	3	3	2	4				23	17	40
3	5	1	2	1	1	2			15	8	23
4	2	3	1		2	1	2		15	21	36
8	1		1					1	11	11	22
3	4	1			1				9	25	34
8	3	3	1						15	28	43
9	5		2						16	29	45
78	46	24	19	8	8	3	2	1	189	234	423

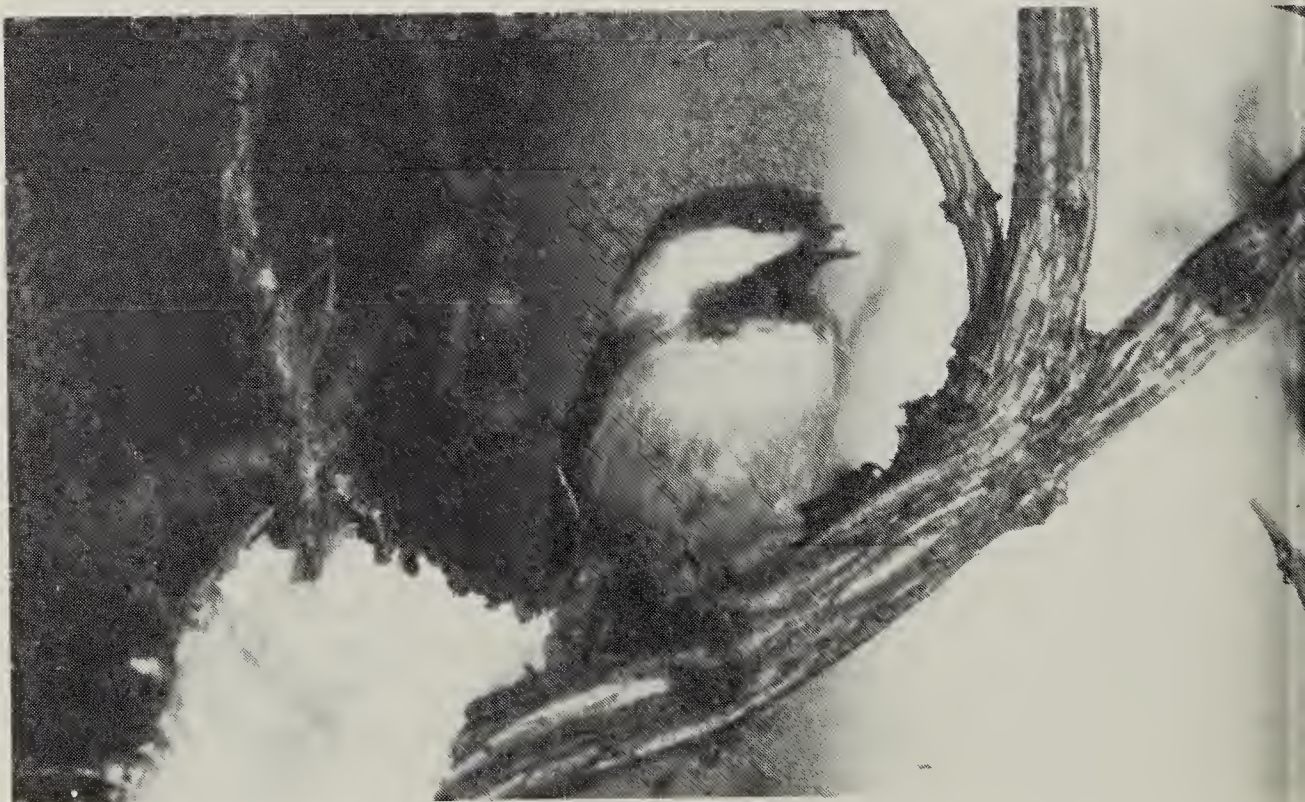
South Dakota, on 4 February 1957. From 85 Harris' Sparrows banded, an immature banded on 30 September 1955 was found at Lake Overholser, Bethany, Oklahoma, on 1 March 1957.

Recaptures of Black-capped Chickadees provide a good idea of the longevity of these little birds. Of the 234 chickadees banded, there were 87 chickadees recaptured on 188 occasions a year or more after banding (Table 1) and two that were fatalities at the banding station, one of which was tangled in a mesh suet bag. There were 33 birds that returned last at 1 year, 25 at 2, 10 at 3, 9 at 4, 3 each at 5, 6 and 7 years and 1 each at 8 and 9 years after banding. The 9-year-old chickadee equalled the greatest longevity encountered at Columbia, Missouri, by Elder and Zimmerman but is well short of the North American record, held by a chickadee banded by the late Dr. John K. Kennard at Bedford, New Hampshire, at 12 years, 5 months.^{1 2}

It was strictly coincidental that he ceased bird banding prior to his marriage to his neighbor and fellow naturalist, Joyce Gunn, on 25 September 1971. They have since resided on the original Gunn homestead, within Good Spirit Lake Provincial Park. Bill has been contributing regular notes to Audubon Field Notes, named American Birds, since 1950, and Joyce were joint editors of the Jay News from 1973 through 1978. Joyce and her mother operated the Good Spirit Lake rural post office until 1978. Bill retired from service with the provincial park in 1987.

¹ ELDER, W. H. and D. ZIMMERMAN. 1983. A comparison of recapture and resighting data in a 15-year study of survivorship of the black-capped chickadee. *J. Field Ornithol.* 54:138-145.

² CLAPP, R.B., M.K. KLIMKIEWICZ and A.G. FUTCHER. 1983. Longevity records of North American birds: Columbia through Paridae. *J. Field Ornithol.* 54:137.



Black-capped Chickadee

Lorne