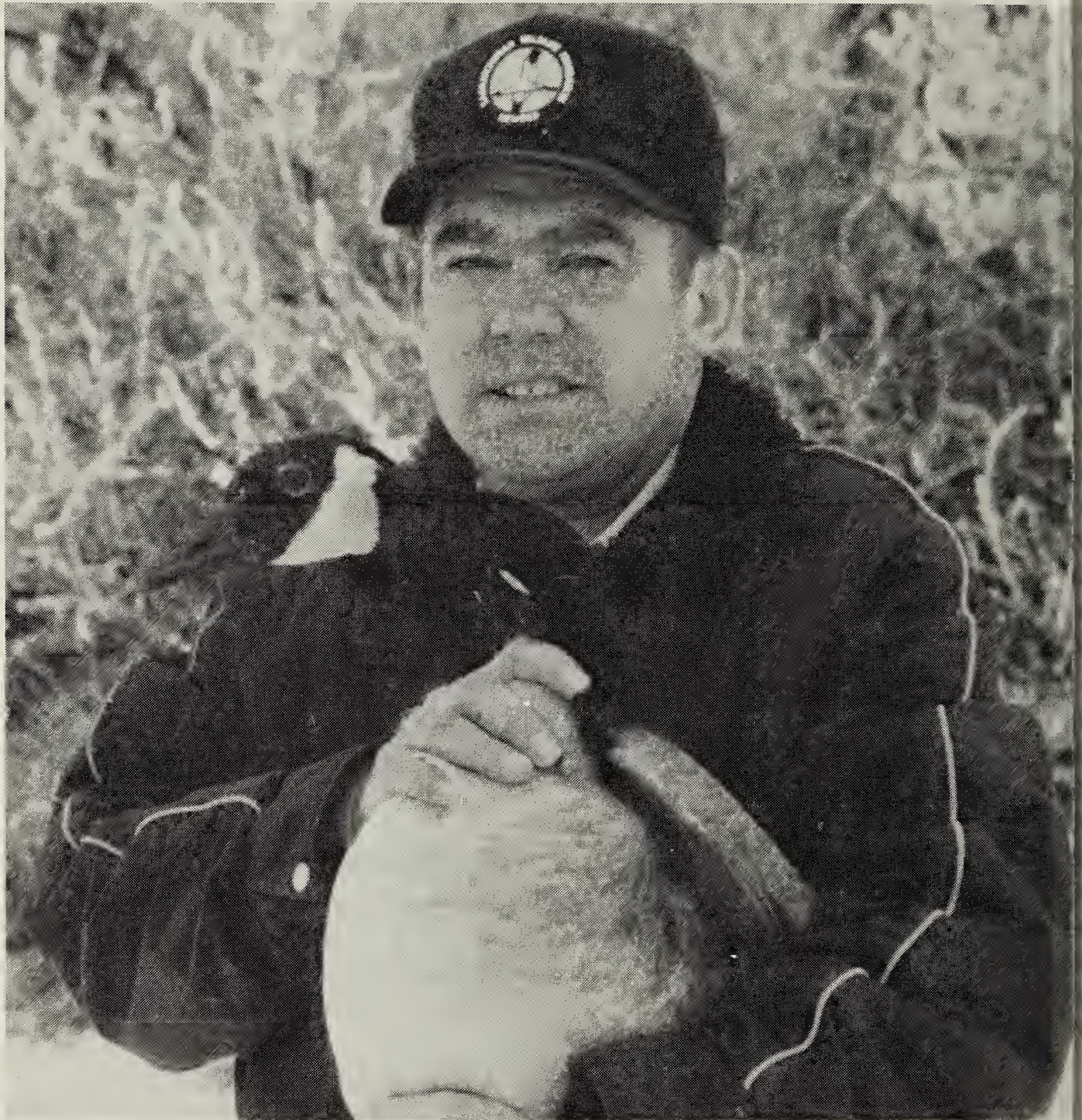


SASKATCHEWAN BIRD BANDER R. LORNE SCOTT*

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Lorne Scott received banding permit #10242 in 1969, and since then has banded 24,559 individual birds of 43 species in 21 years. Over half of his banding, 11,656 Tree Swallows and 6,339 Mountain Bluebirds, has resulted from

the 2000 bird houses he has built around Indian Head and on his portion of the Prairie Bluebird Trail, between Raymond and Broadview. His peak year for Mountain Bluebirds was 1974 when he banded 900. His peak year for Tree Swallows was

* Number 15 in a series of biographies of Saskatchewan bird banders

1975 when he banded 2299 of his year's and total of exactly 4000 birds. He has also banded 50 Eastern Bluebirds, including 15 in 1973. From 1969 through 1975, between seeding and haying seasons, Lorne was accompanied by Gary Seib in dawn-to-dark "blitzes" of 2000 houses along over 500 miles of highways and backroads, stopping about three times each mile. The overall trail extends from Enholm, Saskatchewan to Winnipeg, Manitoba and to the best of our knowledge is the longest trail, in terms of distance between extremities, of any such kind in the world.

Lorne has banded a substantial number of waterfowl at the Wascana Centre in Regina, including 1407 Canada Geese, 17 Mallards, 111 Blue-winged Teal and 1 Lesser Scaup. The only colonial birds banded are Common Terns, with 180 banded on an island in Wascana Lake, and he has banded 875 Yellow-headed Blackbirds nesting in bulrushes at Wascana Marsh. He banded 3 immature Ring Plovers at Chaplin Marsh in 1987.

Lorne's time-consuming activity has involved banding of 379 Great Horned Owl, 191 Burrowing Owl, 191 Red-tailed Hawk and 29 Swainson's Hawk nestlings, 301 nestling Black-billed Magpies. Lorne's peak year for Red-tailed Hawks was 1969 with 86 nestlings banded, for Great Horned Owls, 1970 with 99 nestlings banded, and for Burrowing Owls, 1978 with 82 banded.

Lorne has had 441 recoveries to date, counting "returns" of bluebirds and swallows to nest boxes in subsequent years. The list of recoveries is led by 227 Canada Geese and 167 Mallards, followed by three each of Green-winged Teal and Black-billed Magpie, two each of Blue-winged Teal and Common Tern, one each of Lesser Scaup, Swainson's Hawk, Cedar Waxwing and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Common Terns travelled to Ponta de Mita, Nayarit, Mexico by 5 January and to Puerto San Jose, Guatemala, by 10 January, just over six months after each was banded.

Since large numbers of Canada Geese wintered on Wascana Lake when the power plant maintained open water and a somewhat smaller number still winter in the snow, the southward travels of the Wascana geese seem all the more remarkable. Lorne has had 75 goose recoveries from Nebraska, 47 from South Dakota, 15 from Kansas and 9 from Colorado, plus two each from Alberta, Minnesota, North Dakota, Texas and Wyoming and one each from Kentucky, Missouri and Oklahoma. Of interest are the geese whose bands were read from a distance by telescope: one each in Kansas, Minnesota and South Dakota, and one whose band was read twice in Nebraska in the same winter. Two geese were trapped in Nebraska during operations by a state banding crew, and four were retrapped during later banding operations on the Wascana Marsh at Regina.

Mallards from the Regina Waterfowl Park have dispersed even more widely, with recoveries in decreasing frequency from Arkansas (24), Louisiana (14), Nebraska (13), Kansas (9), Mississippi (9), North Dakota (7), Iowa (6), Missouri (6), Oklahoma (4), Kentucky (3). Two each went to Alberta, Manitoba, Colorado, Idaho and Tennessee, and one each to Nevada (!), South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. A Lesser Scaup and a Blue-winged Teal were shot in Louisiana, another Blue-winged Teal in Iowa, and Green-winged Teal in Louisiana, Texas and Sinaloa, Mexico.

Among 22 Great Horned Owl and 7 Red-tailed Hawk recoveries are two remarkable longevity records. A Great Horned Owl, 518-60849, banded near Maryfield, 49° 40' North, 101° 20' West,

on 17 May 1970 was found weak and soon died in Mrs. Tom Naylen's yard at 49° 30' North, 101° 50' West (near Redvers in southeastern Saskatchewan), in October 1988. This is one of the six oldest owls in the North American banding recovery files at last report. A Red-tailed Hawk, 697-55321, banded north of Balcarres on 28 June 1969 was found dead on a highway 9 miles south of Quinton, Saskatchewan, on 2 September 1989. It was 20 years, 2 months old. Until 1983 the Redtail record had been 19 years, 9 months, but then an Iowa-banded hawk was recovered in the same state when at least 21 years, 6 months old.

The greatest distances travelled by owls were to Iowa: one banded south of Le Bret was recovered that November at Pickerel Lake, Iowa, and one banded 7 miles west of Duval was found dead the next May in Calhoun County, Iowa. Other owls went to Manitoba, North Dakota and South Dakota. Redtails banded near Gibbs were found injured at Altoona, Kansas, shot at Fredonia, Kansas, and found dead west of Fort Dodge, Iowa, the following winter. Another Redtail from Neudorf was found dead near Enid, Oklahoma, 18 months later.

Three Black-billed Magpie recoveries have been near the place of banding. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was shot at Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico within two months after it was banded. A nestling Cedar Waxwing, banded south of Indian Head on 10 July 1977, was caught by a cat at Atikokan, Ontario, 885 km to the east, on 28 August of the same year.

Extensive banding of bluebirds and tree swallows has failed to provide recoveries from the wintering grounds of these two species, but a Tree Swallow was found dead in fall migration in North Dakota and another was recovered from Minnesota. One Mountain Bluebird was found dead in North Dakota during spring migration of the year following banding.

Lorne grew up on the family southeast of Indian Head, attended a room country school, and graduated the Indian Head high school in 1966. He worked at the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History from 1 May 1967 through November 1975, guiding tours, working on children's programs, setting up the nature trails in several provincial parks, and doing research and display work. Lorne next accepted a position as the first full-time Park Naturalist for Wasagamack Centre Authority in Regina, where he remains employed, commuting each day from his 800-acre farm. Here he maintains 200 acres of poplar copses (called "bluffs" in Saskatchewan) and sloughs as formally protected wildlife habitat under the SWF's "Acres for Wildlife" program, providing food and shelter for many birds and mammal species.

Lorne has received many prestigious awards, including:

Annual Conservation Award of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society (1969); Honorary Life Membership in the Whooping Crane Conservation Association (1974); Canadian Merit Award as an outstanding young citizen (1978); Gordon Lund Memorial Conservation Award from Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF) (1981); recipient of the Governor General Conservation Award sponsored by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (1980); Conservation Service Award from Ducks Unlimited Canada (1982); John and Norah Lane Conservation Award from the North American Bluebird Society (1983); B.M. Munson Award from the Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (1987); Honour Award from Whooping Crane Conservation Association (1987); Roland Michener Conservation Award from Canadian Wildlife Federation (1989); Donald Pimlott Award from Canadian Naturalists Federation (1990).

Lorne was a member of the board of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, 1968-1979, first as Youth Program Director, then President of the SNHS, 1980-82, launching money-raising for the SNHS Conservation Fund and in participation with the SWF, launching the Heritage Marsh Program, 5 November 1981. He served on the Board of Directors of the North American Bluebird Society, 1980-81. He became active with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, serving as its Provincial Habitat Chairman, 1982-85 and 1988-89 and as its President, 1986-1987, the only person ever to be president of both the provincial naturalists' and sportsmen's organization in Saskatchewan. He was President of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association, as well as coordinator of the WCCA Canadian Council since it was formed in 1972. He was director of the Canadian Nature Federation, 1985-1986, director of

the Canadian Wildlife Federation, 1986-89 and on the World Wildlife Fund's Wild West Steering Committee which focussed on Prairie Endangered Species, 1986-88.

From 1972 through 1976 Lorne was contributing editor to the monthly *Purple Martin News*, published in Griggsville, Illinois. He has contributed articles to *Blue Jay* and *Beaver*, written for the Canadian Wildlife Service's *Hinterlands Who's Who*, and contributed photographs to *Blue Jay*, *Defenders of Wildlife*, *National Geographic*, and *Nature Canada*. He has been interviewed on "Canada A.M.", and has spoken to naturalists groups in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba and to the annual banquets of the North American Bluebird Society and Ducks Unlimited (Canada). Bird banding has been only one facet of the activities of this farmer-naturalist.



Lorne Scott leading a nature tour at Condie Nature Reserve

Gary W. Seib