

A record of an apparent Fall migration of bats was reported by Gus Yaki, Sandwith, who wrote that "bats were flying around everyone's home here last evening (August 23). No bats have been seen or heard of in this district for about six years."

As we have mentioned before in the "Blue Jay", all western bats seen migratory and as far as we know no hibernating bat has ever been found on the prairies. Elsewhere the majority of bats spend the winter in caves where the temperature keeps just above freezing, so it is doubtful if any barn or building in the West would fulfil these requirements.

Badgers Dick Bird has obtained some good movie "shots" of badgers at work near Buena Vista beach and was surprised one day to receive a social call from one of these animals. "Three of us were standing on the veranda" he writes, "when a badger wandered round the cottage and even started up the veranda steps. He looked right at us, decided it was too much trouble to climb the five steps, so removed his front paws from the bottom step and ambled round the front yard and away."

Jumping Mice Mrs. Bilsbury, Grenfell, states "These pretty creatures seem to come and go in cycles. In abundance for a couple of years and then none to be seen. For instance, in 1943 and 1944, there were lots of them. While berrying I saw them flash through the grasses and several have been drowned in the well by creeping under the cover."

Moose Two bull moose were seen, September 3, going round the south end of Leech Lake, Yorkton, by J. H. Wilson. They were also noted from farms north and west and were evidently following an old trail of these animals leading from the Riding Mountain up to the Beaver Hills and Nut Mountain area.

SASKATCHEWAN BIRD BANDERS

By C. Stuart Houston

5. Charles F. Holmes, DOLLARD Charles F. Holmes, well-known naturalist of Dollard, Sask. has possessed a banding permit since 1932, and since that time has banded 32 birds of 7 species.

Mr. Holmes has not had much time for bird banding, as he devotes most of his spare time to his scientific bird collection, in which he has 500 specimens representing nearly every species to be found in the Cypress Hills region. Incidentally, Mr. Holmes states that he would be pleased to show this collection to anyone visiting the Dollard district.

Although he has banded comparatively few birds, Mr. Holmes has banded three rather unusual species: Red-breasted Nuthatch (1); Virginia Rail (1); and Prairie Falcon (2).

He has also had some good recovery records from Swainson's Hawks.

From 16 birds of this species banded, he has heard from five: two from Montana, one from Oklahoma, one from White Bear, Sask., and one from Ray, N. Dakota. This latter bird was nearly four years old when shot.

6. W. F. Hammond, CUPAR W. F. Hammond, of Cupar, Sask., has banded 254 birds of 13 species, since he began banding in 1932. The greatest number of species he has banded are the Crow (150), followed by Barn Swallow (24) and Rusty Blackbird (23).

Ten Crows were subsequently heard from, two having been shot in Oklahoma, two in Kansas, and one in Nebraska, while five others returned to nest near where they were raised. One bird returned to Cupar three years after it was banded, while another returned to Dysart after a two-year interval, and two were shot at Markinch, four and five years after having been banded, respectively. The fifth bird, also banded as a nestling, was shot at Grenfell, Sask., slightly over 50 miles away "as the crow flies", the year after it was banded.

These records seem further proof of the theory that juvenile birds return to the approximate vicinity of where they were hatched, usually within a 25-mile radius. Through bird banding, we now have definite proof that most ADULT birds return to exactly the same location year after year, but there is still much to be learned as to where young birds nest in their first year in relation to their place of origin.

A Swainson's Hawk banded by Mr. Hammond at Cupar was shot at La Belt, South Dakota, and a Mallard was found dead at Ord, Nebraska. A Barn Swallow, banded in 1932, was caught again in 1933 and 1936 at the same place where it had been banded.

NEWS OF OUR NATURALISTS

Dick Bird, A.R.P.S., F.Z.S., is at present showing his colour "movies" of Saskatchewan wildlife in many western Canadian towns and cities in a two-month's lecture tour sponsored by the Associated Canadian Clubs.

A. J. Breitung of Tisdale, who last year was assistant botanist with a field party to the Yukon from the National Museum, Ottawa, has this summer been collecting plant specimens for the National Museum at Banff and Jasper.

Dr. A. L. Rand Associate Zoologist at the National Museum has been doing field work this summer in southern Alberta and south-western Saskatchewan. We understand he was making a survey of the Prong-horn Antelope population.

INFORMATION PLEASE

Do any of our members know of places where garter snakes gather for hibernation? In a recent magazine article it was pointed out that, while preposterous snake stories still persist, a few authentic facts seem constantly overlooked - the fact, for example, that "snakes sometimes hibernate in great writhing masses, of possibly 300 to 400 in a ball." We have heard of one such occurrence for Saskatchewan and will give details in a later issue of the "Blue Jay."