

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."

Were Burrowing Owls down in numbers this year? Dick Bird wrote in July, "Most-missed friends so far are the Burrowing Owls . . . we haven't seen one and we have searched all the likely places." It then struck us that no correspondents had been making any reference to these interesting little Owls.

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Has anyone had any experience raising the Western Red Lily from seed? Last year we supplied G. F. Ledingham with seed from Red Lilies grown in a garden from transplanted bulbs. This seed did not germinate. Recently W. Yanchinski sent us seeds of wild Lilies from Naicam and we are hoping for better luck. In any case growing lilies from seed is a job requiring much patience, as it takes three or four years before the plants bear flowers.

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The Provincial Museum is anxious to obtain specimens of the skulls of the weasel, woodchuk, pocket-gopher and badger for a study collection. So here is a chance for younger members to contribute something of value to the Museum.

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Each Fall we get reports of Golden Eagles seen in migration. We are inclined to believe that some of these birds may be young Bald Eagles - a species which still nests along the Churchill River and other northern localities. The adult Bald Eagle, with white head and tail, is unmistakable but young birds are wholly dark and are often confused with adult Golden Eagles. Actually the under plumage of young Bald Eagles is grayish, but this is not always easily observed, depending on the light. The flight of the Bald Eagle is also said to be more steady and direct than that of the Golden, but here again these birds are too rarely seen to make comparative study possible. (Note: The Golden Eagle is most likely to be seen in winter. Young Golden Eagles have a white patch on the undersurface of the wings and a conspicuous dark terminal band to the tail.)

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We should be glad to receive "first seen" records of winter birds - Snowy Owl, Pine Grosbeaks, Bohemian Waxwings, and others.

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In reply to our query re Turtles occurring north of the Qu'Appelle Valley, Miss Elaine Culbert, now at Biggar, tells us that four years ago, when she was teaching at Gerald, a Painted Turtle was discovered crawling along the railroad track. This turtle, it was believed, had followed the Cutarm Creek up from the Qu'Appelle, as others had been seen along the creek at different times. (Gerald is about a mile east of the Cutarm Valley, and some 16 miles north of the Qu'Appelle.) Has anyone else any turtle records?