

SASKATCHEWAN BIRD BANDERS.

3. George H. Lang, INDIAN HEAD. Beginning his banding activities in 1923, the late George H. Lang of Indian Head banded a grand total of 6208 birds in Saskatchewan. Robins top his list with 1662 individuals, followed by Black-crowned Night Heron (859); House Wren (498); Bronzed Grackle (461); Yellow-shafted Flicker (458); Common Tern (447); Slate-colored Junco (306); Brewer Blackbird (184); Mourning Dove (168); Barn Swallow (165); Bank Swallow (127); Yellow Warbler (106); Burrowing Owl (85) and Crow (83).

The Black-crowned Night Herons were banded at a colony at Dry Lake, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles S.E. of Strawberry Lake, south of Indian Head. Crows were very numerous in this district, and in some years they destroyed nearly all of the herons' eggs. The Common Terns were banded as young on an island in the middle of Dry Lake. The terns were apparently flourishing in 1932, in which year Mr. Lang banded 339 of this species.

Unusual birds banded by Mr. Lang include Grinnell Water-thrush (1); Hudsonian Chickadee (1); Sora Rail (1); Sharp-shinned Hawk (18); Pelican (4); Say's Phoebe (7); Bonaparte's Gull (1); Goshawk (4) and Golden Eagle (1).

Four adult Pelicans were washed up on the shores of Lake Katepwa in a terrific windstorm on July 23, 1930. Mr. Lang's son, Bob (now Sgt. Robt. Lang, Canadian Army Overseas), caught the Pelicans and banded them.

On Oct. 20, 1938, Mr. Lang, while duck shooting at Vanguard, Sask., was hiding below the bank of the river. A large Golden Eagle dived at a rabbit sitting on the bank, missed the rabbit and plunged into the water. Mr. Lang quickly rushed into the water and caught the Eagle. When it dried out, he placed a band on it and let it go.

At first, nearly all the birds were banded as nestlings. Later, simple box traps were used, to catch adult birds. Up until 1933, Mr. Lang entered all his returns in his banding record books, but the list of returns for 1933 on is not included with the rest of his records. However, many interesting returns are listed for the first ten years, and these are a valuable addition to our knowledge of Saskatchewan avifauna.

Probably, of all the species he has banded, the return records from the Night Herons are the most important. One of these birds banded as a nestling on June 18/24 was found hanging from an electric light pole near Borger, Texas, on May 9/33, 8 years and 11 months later. Four other herons travelled to Texas, while others went to North Dakota, Minnesota, Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois and Florida. One caught on a fishing hook in Texas was nearly five years old, while another found dead at Carman, Illinois, was 7 years and 3 months old.

Bronzed Grackles went to Arkansas and Minnesota, while another grackle caught in Louisiana was nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ years old. Robins were heard from as far away as Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. A Common Tern, banded July 19/32, was caught at Ottertail County, Minnesota, four years later. Two Brewer Blackbirds reached Texas, one of them nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ years after being banded.

A Great Horned Owl, generally supposed to remain in the same locality, was found dead at Clavet, Sask., 155 miles from where it was banded, two years and two months later. Another bird of this species was shot north of Qu'Appelle, Sask. over 7 years after it was banded.

Mr. Lang had abundant proof that some birds return to exactly the same place year after year. He also had a number of records of birds, banded as fledglings, which came back to live somewhere within a fifty mile radius of Indian Head. A Bronzed Grackle was killed at Sintaluta, nearly 3 years after being banded. A Crow was shot at nearby Katepwe, at the age of eight years. A Robin was found dead at Regina Beach, nearly four years later, while another was caught at Killalee, five years later. A Flicker was caught at Cupar, nearly two years after being banded.

Mr. Lang was secretary of the Experimental Farm at Indian Head until 1931, when he retired. In Sept., 1939, Mr. Lang moved to Cawston, B.C. When he died on Sept. 12, 1941, at the age of 68 years, Saskatchewan lost one of its keenest naturalists, and Nature lost one of its best friends.