

In January, 1893, I went to work on a horse ranch 20 miles west of Yorkton. About two miles south of the ranch, there was a depression in the prairie which we called the "ravine." It was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and 200 yards wide at the bottom. There was no stream in it, but at several places some hundreds of yards apart, there were springs that welled up through low, muskegy hillocks. Around each of these marshes, formed by the springs, grew a wide belt of bulrushes and reeds. This was the only place I knew of where the Sandhill Crane nested in numbers, and on one occasion when I made a fairly thorough search, I found 10 nests, each with two eggs.

BIRD BANDING NOTES

C. Stuart Houston, Yorkton bird bander, reports two returns this year of birds banded in 1946. A Chipping Sparrow, banded June 10, 1946, was retrapped June 30, 1947, while a Robin, banded May 10, 1946, was found dead in the yard where banded, July 8, 1947. At Nipawin, M. G. Street had returns of the same species; a Chipping Sparrow, banded June 24, 1945, was retaken May 22, 1946, and again this year on May 28. The Robin, banded June 28, 1946, returned to the same trap May 11, 1947. Street also had an interesting recovery of a Common Redpoll which was banded at Nipawin, Sask., March 8, 1946. This small bird was shot at Bluevale, Ontario, some 40 miles from London, Ont., on February 14, 1947. Another Common Redpoll, also banded March 8, 1946, returned March 20, 1947 to the same trap where it was banded.

DISASTERS TO BIRD LIFE

Mr. Dick Bird F.Z.S. of Regina who through the medium of inspiring movies and lectures, is probably doing more in the cause of conservation education than any other person in the province, reports several disasters to bird life in the province.

One of these occurred early in July, on Last Mountain Lake north of Regina, where Mr. Bird was taking pictures of a pelican colony nesting on a gravelly sandbar half a mile from shore. A sudden windstorm lashed the water during the night and washed over the lower part of the bar and destroyed about 25 pelican nests with newly hatched young, a number of grebe nests, common terns and several ducks' nests.

Among "human hazards" encountered this spring by Mr. Bird were "results of misguided individuals whose rifle-sighting eyes were keener than their wits. Four of our Swainson hawk families were wiped out by the demise of parent birds as they sat confidently on roadside telephone poles." Mr. Bird noticed the five defunct Swainson hawks, each killed by a .22 rifle bullet, decorating a fence. He reports that he took the birds off the barbed wires and hid them, with shame, in the grasses by the road,

A final tragedy is told of a large hole in a corner fence post where Flickers have nested for the past five years, and wherein Mother Flicker had hatched out her usual eight which Mr. Bird hoped to band. Some sadistic individual ("I'd like to find him!" vows Mr. Bird) "went to a great deal of trouble to find a stick of the right shape and length to poke down inside the hole to kill the young...The weapon remained in the nest."