

MACALESTER COLLEGE

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

■ DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Ordway Bulletin No. 5

Subject: BIRD-BANDING at ORDWAY.

The study of the movement habits of birds is an interesting one which has excited man's curiosity for a long while. One technique presently available to us for this study is that of banding live birds. Through the government-operated Migratory Bird Populations Station at Laurel, Maryland we are able to acquire and exchange a great deal of information as to the movement of birds, their life expectancy and other ornithological data.

At Ordway we band birds throughout the year although the two migration seasons are of greater interest. A very worthwhile and interesting field project for our Station is the study and tracing of our summer residents as well as our winter resident birds. Where do the Redpolls spend their summers? Do the same ones return? How long do they live?

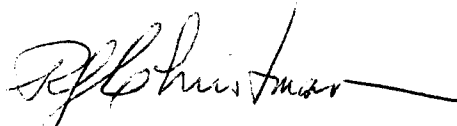
The banding of waterfowl is a continuing program which has been quite successful in indicating the behavior of our ducks and geese and has been of great assistance to the Dept. of Interior in plans for waterfowl refuges, research into disease, etc. The fact is that there have been a rather high percentage of returns of the bands from game birds because the hunters who take them are usually good about reporting them.

One way in which every interested person can contribute to these studies is to keep alert concerning the marking of birds. A dead bird, particularly a dead songbird, is a rather inconsequential thing and although millions of them expire each year it is a little unusual for most of us to recall having seen more than a few dead birds. Yet there are thousands killed just along our highways by motorcars; others collide with windows and buildings; etc. Each person can assist in the nationwide bird study by having a look at the legs of any dead bird he might encounter and removing any ~~band~~ therefrom. This band is almost always of aluminum and therefore malleable enough to be withdrawn and flattened so it will fit into an envelope. The withdrawn band should be mailed along with identifying information as to the name of recoverer, place and date of recovery, probable cause of death ("flew into wall" "shot by air-rifle") to the following:

Bird Banding Laboratory,
Migratory Bird Populations Station,
Laurel, Md. 20810.

Incidentally, the Laurel people will acknowledge receipt of information and will also forward to you an account of the subject bird insofar as they know: where and when it was banded plus the incidental info as to species.

In case this should be too involved or "not very much fun" it would be appreciated if the finder of such bird-bands would contact the undersigned either by 'phone (455-6204) or by a note in care of the Biology Dept., Macalester College, St. Paul, Mn 55101



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History Study Area

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