

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

An Outlaw Barn Owl.—On May 25, 1928, I visited Castle Rock, a large rock which lies off Crescent City, California, and which supports an extensive rookery of sea birds. There was an old cabin on the Island which had fallen partly to ruin. Under a built-in wooden bedstead was the nest of a Barn Owl (*Aluco pratincola*). The female flew out as I entered. Back in the corner, farthest from the light, were four owlets. The area covered by the bed was three inches deep with the feathers, wings and bodies of Beal Leach Petrels (*Oceanodromu leucorhoa beali*). These little birds were evidently so easily caught that there were numbers of bodies with only the heads removed, and I collected for study three specimens with hardly a feather misplaced. A good number of the bodies of the petrels were rotting and inhabited by fly larvae.

I am a staunch defender of the Raptores, but, in this case, as it seemed rather hard on the petrels, I disposed of the owlets.—PAUL BONNOT, *Stanford University, California, July 12, 1928.*

Early Nesting of the Redpoll in Alaska.—Under date of May 10, 1928, the eskimo representative of the Chicago Academy of Sciences at Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, wrote as follows: "I went to Teller on 10th of April and I met an old man from Igloo, sixty miles from Teller, and he told me that the Redpolls had laid their eggs there. He said that was something unusual. He said he had lived there all his life. There never was so early any such birds lay eggs. Two weeks ago we heard they had hatched."

Nagozruk, the eskimo who wrote the above, is an unusual man, and we receive many interesting notes from him relative to the birds of the North. Being a hunter, he is afield constantly, and as he is thoroughly familiar with the birds and mammals, he is able to distinguish between most species. The natives do not differentiate between the Common and the Hoary redpoll, however, and the above note may refer to either of the two, as they both occur in the same region, and have similar habits. After a season's work in the field with Nagozruk, I am satisfied that his observations are reliable.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois, July 2, 1928.*

Note on a Bush-tit's Eye Color.—On April 5, 1928, we caught a bush-tit in our water trap. It had cream-colored eyes. We were particularly interested in its eye color because of notes taken by other banders concerning the bush-tit's eye color, especially those of Mr. and Mrs. Michener which have appeared in the CONDOR (XXX, 1928, p. 133). After examining this bush-tit, we listed it as a nesting female because of the presence of the bare incubation patch. We live in hopes of taking her again, as well as other bush-tits, for further study.—MYRTLE S. EDWARDS, *Claremont, California, May 19, 1928.*

A Mockingbird in Saskatchewan.—At noon on May 31 while sitting at dinner I thought I could hear the spirited singing of a Brown Thrasher and when I went out to investigate, a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) flew across from the willows by the river to our tree plantation. After watching it for some time I had to leave it to go to my work. At dusk the bird was back by the river in front of the house, and for nearly an hour we listened to its wonderful singing, which none of us had ever expected to hear short of a trip to California. It mimicked repeatedly the notes of three of our common birds, the White-rumped Shrike, Say Phoebe, and Arctic Towhee.

Early next morning the Mockingbird started to sing again. About 9 A. M. it was performing from the top of a birch bush half a mile down-stream, and in the evening it was back again in front of the house. This round was made regularly each day until June 4, by which time I had several opportunities to study its ways and listen to its song; and most reluctantly I decided I must shoot the bird (which could only be done in the midst of its song—at other times it was too wary), or else be content with a "sight-record" which no one would believe. I was fortunate

in taking it with scarcely a mark, and the specimen is now in the collection at the Provincial Museum in Regina.—LAURENCE B. POTTER, *Eastend, Saskatchewan, July 1, 1928.*

Some Returns of Banded Mallards.—One of the outstanding events in bird banding in the west during the last year has been the large number of returns received from Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), banded by Frank H. Rose, at Moiese, Montana. During September, October and November of 1927, Mr. Rose, who is Warden of the Montana National Bison Range, banded 4019 Mallards on this reserve, where no hunting of ducks has been allowed since 1909. Prior to May 8, 1928, 738 of these birds were reported as killed during the preceding shooting season, or 18% plus. The locations of 705 of these returns are shown in figure 84, where each small circle indicates the locality where one of these ducks was killed, and the figures inside of some of the circles indicate the number reported from localities where more than one was killed. The radiating lines connecting these localities with the larger circle at Moiese, Montana, indicate the direction of movement of the birds as shown by these returns, although, of course, it is not to be supposed that any of them moved in such direct courses between the two points of record. The total returns, by states,

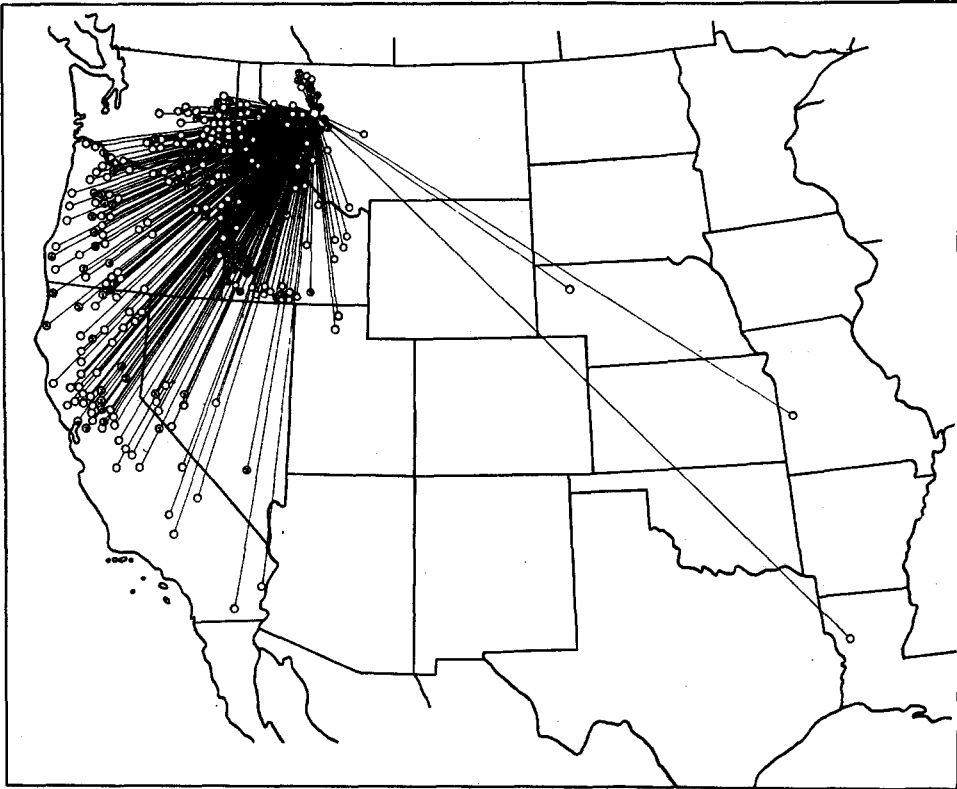


Fig. 84. MAP SHOWING RETURNS OF MALLARDS BANDED IN 1927 AT MOIESE, MONTANA.

shown here are as follows: Montana 162, Idaho 231, Washington 89, Oregon 133, California 73, Nevada 12, Utah 2, Nebraska 1, Missouri 1, and Louisiana 1. Mr. Rose is planning to band an even larger number of ducks next fall, and further interesting returns are to be expected.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, California, May 29, 1928.*