

## BANDING NESTLING CROWS

By C. T. BLACK

THE CROW is a familiar, although not always popular, figure of the landscape of the greater part of the United States and southern Canada. However, as is true of many common species, certain phases of its life history are imperfectly known. Among these are dispersal from the nest, migration, yearly survival, and longevity. All of these points will remain uncertain unless further and extensive banding is done. As long as they remain unknown, no fully accurate picture of the relation of the crow to agriculture and wildlife can be drawn.

Since large numbers of crows are killed annually, the number of banded birds recovered should be proportionately great. However, few crows have been banded, and comparatively few banded crows have been recovered. In view of the excellent possibilities for obtaining large numbers of recoveries of bands, thereby filling in certain deficiencies in the life history of the economically important crow, it is urged that crows be banded whenever possible, especially during the present nesting season.

Capturing and banding adult crows is admittedly difficult. Nestling crows can be banded, however, merely through the expenditure of the small amount of energy required by tree-climbing. To further facilitate this work, the services of the usually available small boy may be secured.

Since it is important to determine migration routes and wintering grounds of crows which nest in southern Canada and northern United States, the especial activity of bird students residing in these sections is requested.

Nestling crows large enough to retain bands may be found in April in southern states, in late April and early May in central states, in May in northern states and southern Ontario, and in late May and in June in most of southern Canada. Number five bands will serve. If persons not possessing bird-banding permits find crow nests, they are urged to obtain bands from the writer (if they reside in Illinois) or from Mr. R. H. Pough, Natural Association of Audubon Societies, 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

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