

RECOVERIES OF MOURNING DOVES BANDED AS NESTLINGS IN WEST-CENTRAL KANSAS

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More than 600 nestling Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) were banded at an Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*) planting about five miles northwest of Hays, Ellis County, Kansas, from 1961 through 1968. In 1961 a very high nesting density (17.3 nests/acre) was first noted there, and the site was studied intensively the following summer (Schroeder, *J. Wildl. Manage.*, **34**: 344-348, 1970).

Banding of 9- to 12-day-old young began during the 1961-62 nesting seasons when 298 nestlings were banded. Banding was continued in 1963 and part of 1964 when 230 young were banded, and in 1967 and 1968 when still another 115 nestlings were banded.

In August 1965 improvement of an adjacent secondary road destroyed the best nesting habitat; this activity, together with increased predation and vandalism, substantially reduced the nesting population. During mid-June 1969 the maximum number of nests active at any one time was eight (compared with 92 in late June 1962), and not one nestling had fledged by 21 June when the study was terminated.

The 643 banded nestlings had produced 30 recoveries from hunting by spring 1969 (Table 1), a total recovery rate of 4.6 per cent. Seventeen of these recoveries occurred during the year of banding, a recovery rate of 2.6 per cent. From 1961 to 1963, the period of highest population in the banding area, the recovery rate was 6 per cent (27 recoveries from 451 banded nestlings). These 27 recoveries are of interest because they apparently identify the major wintering grounds of this dove population and give some insight into the time and route of migration. As noted by Schroeder (*op. cit.*), hunter disturbance in the banding locale terminates nesting activities, and the birds disperse soon after the dove hunting season opens on 1 September. Most recoveries obtained locally occurred during the first week of the season when hunting pressure was greatest. Eleven birds were taken from a few days to three months after banding, and one bird was recovered two years after banding. Southward migration apparently begins by mid-September.

The latest direct recovery reported from the banding area was 23 September, and by this date other direct recoveries had been taken in north-central Texas and southeastern Arizona.

The nine Mexican recoveries are all from the west-central portion of the country (Fig. 1). The recovery dates reported for seven of these (two in October, one in January, three in February, one in March) suggest that these birds were on or near their wintering grounds. Single additional reports from Mexico in May 1966 and July 1963 are almost certainly merely dates of reporting and not dates on which the banded bird was actually recovered.

TABLE 1. Recoveries of nestling Mourning Doves banded in Ellis County, Kansas, 1961-68.

Banding dates (Inclusive)	Total nestlings banded	Recoveries						Location
		Total	Local, in the year banded		Local, after year banded		Distant	
			No.	No.	Date	No.		
9 June - 7 Sept. 1961	158	9	3	4	1 Sept. 1962 21 Sept. 1962 21 Sept. 1962 2 Sept. 1963	2	21 Oct. 1961 16 May 1966	Jalisco, Mexico Michoacan, Mexico
26 May - 24 Aug. 1962	140	9	4	0		5	16 Oct. 1963 10 Feb. 1963 July 1963 19 Feb. 1964 11 Jan. 1967	Guanajuato, Mexico Guerrero, Mexico Guerrero, Mexico Jalisco, Mexico Colima, Mexico
6 June - 25 Aug. 1963	153	9	5	0		4	9 Sept. 1964 23 Sept. 1963 9 Feb. 1964 15 Mar. 1967	Hosington, Kansas Oracle Jct., Arizona Michoacan, Mexico Nayarit, Mexico
9 June - 18 July 1964	77	0	0	0		0		
22 Aug. - 29 Aug. 1967	64	1	1	0		0		
11 June - 8 Aug. 1968	51	2	1	0		1	11 Sept. 1968	Foard City, Texas
TOTALS	643	30	14	4		12		

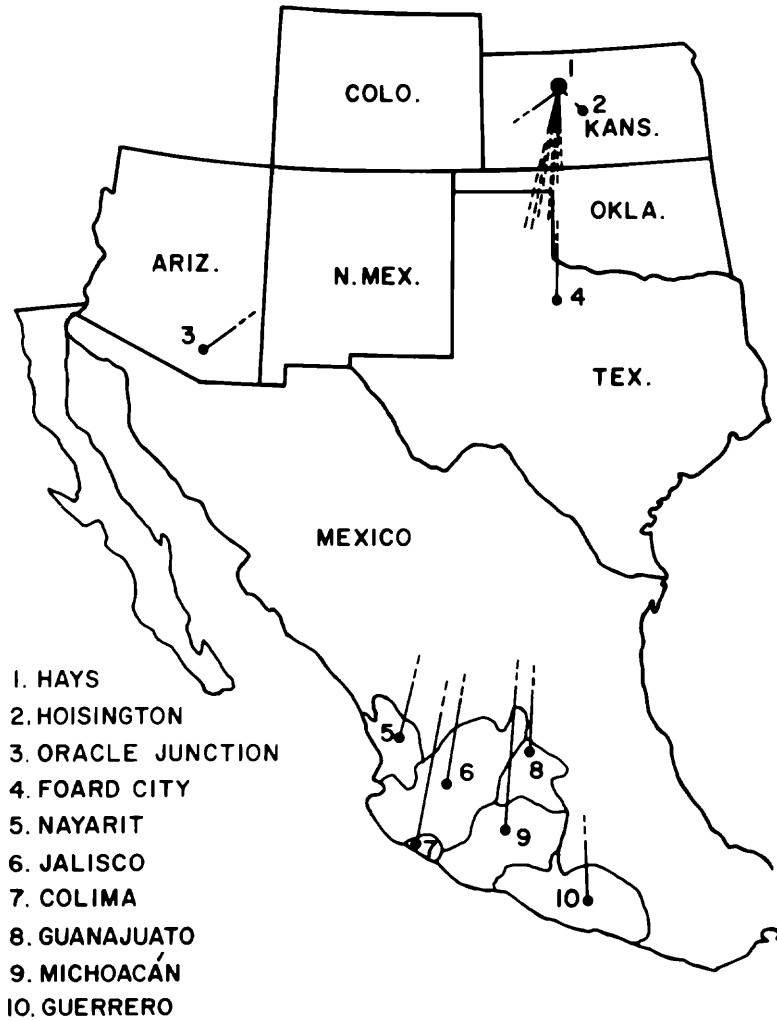


FIGURE 1. Recovery locations of Mourning Doves banded as nestlings near Hays, Kansas.

The ages of birds at recovery were as follows: 17 recovered during the calendar year of banding (two to six months of age), eight during the second year, two during the third year, one during the fourth year, and two during the fifth year. The latter two birds (one recovery date is questionable) were nearly four and one-half years of age when killed on the wintering grounds.

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