

Bird Bands Play Major Role In Study Of Habits And Life Span Of Wildlife

ALTURAS — Eight hundred and seventy-nine hunters have killed 1,363 ducks and geese on the Modoc Wildlife Refuge south of Alturas since the 1963 bird season opened Oct. 8.

Of the 1,363 birds, 12 bands have been turned in from the birds' legs at the refuge. The November figures show a seemingly small percentage of banded birds brought down, but each bird plays an important part in the over-all study of the wild geese and duck habits, span of life, and migratory characteristics.

The band from one bird does not set a trend, but when the bands from birds all over the world are recorded at the National Bird Banding Office in Laurel, Md., each band becomes an important clue in the picture as it unfolds.

Every hunter who kills a banded bird is requested to remove the band from around the leg and either give it to a game warden, a member of the Fish and Wildlife Service, or mail it directly to the Bird Banding Office in Maryland.

Most of the bird banding is done by members of the Fish and Wildlife Service, but private citizens and protective groups also participate in the project. On the Modoc Refuge this year, 181 geese were trapped and banded the latter part of June. These geese were primarily nesting geese and their goslings, representing about one fourth of the spring hatch of goslings on the refuge.

During the early fall, 184 mallards and 100 cinnamon teal were trapped by the wildlife men and banded on the refuge. Two hundred and eighty five shore birds and sagebirds were also banded during the fall months in conjunction with the fall migration.

The Modoc Refuge has been in effect three years, so the records from this banding are all relatively new. Most of the birds that have been captured in traps and found banded had been originally banded at the Malheur Refuge in Oregon.

When banding was done in June, 65 of the geese were found to be already banded. The fact the birds had been banded at the Malheur Refuge showed a trend of the birds using the flyway through Burns, Ore., rather than the Tulalake

Refuge flyway which lies more northwest.

The birds trapped on the local refuge in the especially built traps only stayed in the traps a few short hours. Assistant refuge manager, Melvin Nail, explained that once he set up his trap, he checked it every few hours and banded and released the captured birds. This eliminated any bird spending more than 2 or 3 hours in captivity. No bird ever spends the night in a trap, he said.

The banded birds recaptured on refuges throughout the United States are reported and recorded to find their fly routes before they are released.

The history of bird banding goes back as far as 1719. The first recorded banding was on a gray heron in Germany. The heron had been banded in Turkey several years before. However, modern bird banding really had its beginning with Hans Christian Mortensen, a school teacher of Viborg, Denmark.

In 1899, he began putting metal bands on the legs of teal, pintails, storks, starlings, and two or three kinds of hawks. The bands had his name and address inscribed on them. As his banded birds began to appear in many places in Europe, other bird students became interested in bird "ringing" as they say in Europe.

In 1909 the American Bird Banding Association was formed. The only time the interest in bird banding lagged was during World War I. In 1929 the United States and Canada formed an alliance for jointly directing the banding of migratory birds in the two countries.

Results from banding have shown that many birds live as long as 10 years or more. In one instance, a redwinged Blackbird banded in New York was shot 14 years later in North Carolina. A black duck was taken 17 years after it had been

TOURS START AGAIN
WASHINGTON (UPI) — The White House will be open to public tours again Friday.

Mrs. John F. Kennedy decided Wednesday to allow the public to visit the executive mansion during regular visiting hours from 10 a.m. to noon every day except Sunday and Monday.

banded in Cape Cod by a hunter in Newfoundland. The longest recorded age of a North American bird is of a Caspian tern banded in Michigan in 1925 and shot in Ohio in 1951.

The Arctic tern makes the longest known migratory flight of any living species. It is known from banding reports that the bird makes an annual round trip flight of about 25,000. It nests near the Arctic Circle and winters in the Antarctic. Bands have been returned from Nigeria, West Africa, and the Cape Province South Africa.

Officials at the Modoc Refuge ask all hunters finding a band in any location to attach the band securely to a piece of heavy writing paper. With the band, send the following information to banding headquarters in Maryland:

1. Name and address; 2. All letters and numbers of the band; 3. The date you found the band; 4. The place where you found the band (nearest town, with county and state); 5. Tell how you found the band (on a bird found dead, shot, trapped, or some other way.)

All bands turned into any agency are sent to the headquarters and then processed. The pertinent data is then re-distributed to the refuges throughout the United States and Canada.



MODOC BIRD BANDING — Banding birds is one of the tasks performed by the staff at the Modoc Wildlife Refuge in conjunction with a program established jointly by the United States and Canada. Bands turned in by hunters and sent to the national office in Maryland provide information as to the habits, span of life, and migratory characteristics of particular birds. Here the assistant manager of the Modoc Refuge, Melvin Nail, points to the band he placed on a captured duck.

Proposal To Move Modoc Stock Show Draws Protest

ALTURAS — The first unanimous protest to moving the Modoc County junior livestock show from Alturas to the Cedarville fairgrounds was voiced with vigor at the meeting of the Warner Mountain 4-H Club Wednesday evening, Nov. 20.

John Younger, in reporting the adult council's discussion on the proposal, said that the move was advocated because of the better facilities at the fairgrounds and the decreased cost by having the show at the time of the Modoc County Fair. By sponsoring the junior livestock show at this time, the state would assume the cost of ribbons, bonds for prizes, and the cost of judges.

He pointed out that the present cost of putting on the show is \$950, which is paid from the commission of the sales at the fat stock auction. Last year this

five per cent amounted to \$900 as the sale total was \$12,000.

Some of the disadvantages, he said, could be the loss of some of the local support for the livestock sale from Alturas merchants, and the change of the time schedule from the early June show date to late August in feeding and fitting of the show animals.

The question of the feeling of the 4-H clubs and FFA chapters throughout the county will be put to a vote at meetings held during the month of November. The results will then be reviewed by the adult council, made up of one adult member from each chapter.

Dr. Al Baird explained that there will have to be considerable repairs and maintenance work done on the junior livestock show buildings in Alturas this year and there is no money

available at present.

Rancher John Weber spoke out against the move, warning that the merchants in town "should be considered." "You move the sale out of Alturas and I'm afraid we will lose their support. The June three-

day show is a help to our local businessmen."

He also said that June is about the time the animals raised in Modoc County are ready for sale in order for them to coincide with the county's breeding season.

PAGE-8D Thursday, November 28, 1963
HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Ore.

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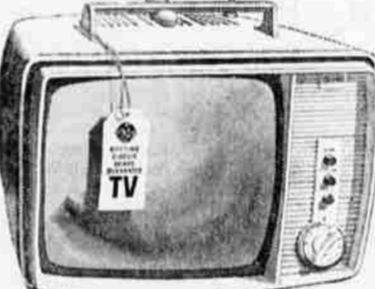
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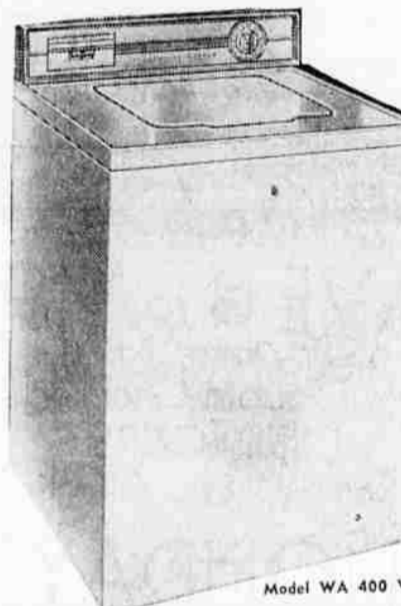
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