

GENERAL NOTES

Saskatchewan Banded Mallard Recovered in Eastern Siberia. — An adult male Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) number 637-32261, banded two miles east and two miles south of Smiley, Saskatchewan ($51^{\circ} 35' N.$, $109^{\circ} 25' W.$) on September 26, 1958, was killed near Egvekinot (Chikotka), Russia ($66^{\circ} 20' N.$, $179^{\circ} 10' W.$) on July 2, 1959. The recovery was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Bird Banding Office by Mr. T. Shevareva of the Commission for Nature Protection of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow. Mr. Allan Duvall of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center has indicated that this is the only North American Mallard band recovery reported from the USSR (pers. comm.).

The bird in question was the third banded of a total of 94 mallards trapped on September 26th. Of this number 65 were adult males. Only three direct 1958 recoveries were made from adult males banded on this date, one each from Kansas, Iowa and Louisiana.

In order to test the distribution of other mallards from this period an analysis was made of recoveries for 892 mallards banded at Smiley during the September 21-30 period. Both ages and sexes were represented but 80 percent of the banded sample were adult males. The following distribution summaries were made using recovery data from pink 3-624 "flimsies":

1. Of a total of 68 direct (1958) recoveries, 12 were from Canada (Saskatchewan and Alberta), 2 from the Pacific Flyway, 1 from the Atlantic Flyway, 15 from the Central Flyway (chiefly Nebraska) and 38 from the Mississippi Flyway (chiefly Arkansas).

2. Of a total of 30 indirect, 1959 autumn recoveries, 11 were from Canada, 1 from the Pacific Flyway, 8 from the Central Flyway and 10 from the Mississippi Flyway.

3. Other than the Siberian record, no 1959 spring or summer recoveries were reported.

Because the banding was done during the fall migration period, it is uncertain where the adult male originated and I can only speculate as to how it finally made its way to Siberia. If the above recoveries are considered, there is a strong chance that it wintered in the Mississippi or Central Flyways in 1958 and then migrated north during the spring of 1959. The male may have been a prairie bird displaced northward into Alaska because of the drought as were other prairie-nesting species (Hansen, 1960). Or, the male may have mated with a Seward Peninsula, Alaska, hen on the wintering grounds and homed to the hen's natal or previous breeding area in Alaska; crossing into Siberia after the breeding season. Gabrielson and Lincoln (1959) record the mallard as breeding on, and numerous south of, the Seward Peninsula. Also, I have found in other preliminary analyses of recoveries that it is not uncommon to obtain returns of mallards in northern Alberta or northern British Columbia a year following banding on the prairies and perhaps this adult male merely continued to move further west-northwest.

There is no way to determine whether the bird migrated north from its wintering ground through central Canada to the McKenzie and Yukon Rivers or up the Pacific Coast to Alaska. Furthermore, only a guess can be made at the crossing point into Siberia, either across the Bering Strait or along the Aleutian chain, where Murie (1959) found the mallard to be a breeding species and winter resident. However, as the recovery is almost 400 kilometers due west of the Bering Strait near the Arctic Circle, the former route seems most probable.

Dementiev and Gladkov (1952) give only a single mallard record along the Anadyr River, slightly to the southwest of the present recovery but do show the Kamchatka Peninsula as one of the major breeding areas. They point out though, that in places to the north of the northernmost breeding boundary, mallards are quite regularly met with during the summer, but these are non-breeding, wandering, individuals. Based on the recovery site in relation to known breeding areas it would seem unlikely that the banded bird was a Siberian breeder which wintered in North America, a situation reported for Wrangel Island breeding Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea*) by Kebbe (1961).

On the reverse side of the white 3-624 sheets received for band recoveries from the Bird Banding Office, reference is made to a pintail which was banded in Aransas County, Texas, in 1951, and recovered 2½ years later at the same place, "Evekinot," USSR, as the above mallard. In a letter accompanying the mallard recovery it was noted that a total of 171 North American bird recoveries have been received to June 12, 1961, from the Soviet Union. Most of the birds were pintails (121), snow geese (24), and black brant (16).

LITERATURE CITED

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Analysis of Chimney Swift Returns at Kent, Ohio, 1960-61. — In 1960 a total of 45 Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) returned to the campus of Kent State University. They had been banded in the following year-groups: 1951 (1); 1953 (1); 1954 (3); 1955 (5); 1956(3); 1957 (8); 1958 (12); 1959 (12). As far as sex has been determined to date, 15 were males and 12 were females. They were first found on the campus that year on April 21, and the last record was made on October 5. Twenty-three were first captured in 1960 in air shafts in which they had formerly nested; seven others in shafts in which they had formerly roosted; including one which had been an all-season visitor and two others which had been raised in the shaft of recapture. Thirty-one remained on the campus to nest in 1960, 20 of them nesting in the same shaft as in the previous year, and one former visitor nesting in the shaft where it had been a visitor in 1959. Two returns became all-season visitors with the mated pairs in shafts E1 and S1.

In 1961 a total of 46 Chimney Swifts returned. They had been banded as follows: 1951 (2); 1953 (1); 1954 (1); 1955 (4); 1956 (2); 1957 (6); 1958 (8); 1959 (13); 1960 (9). As far as sex has been determined to date, 13 were males and 12 were females. They were first found on the campus that year on April 23, and the last record was made on October 8. Twenty-five were first captured in 1961 in air shafts in which they had formerly nested; nine others in shafts in which they had formerly roosted, including one which had been an all-season visitor and one which had been raised in the shaft of recapture. One swift returned for the first time since it was banded in 1958, and four others for the first time since they were banded in 1959. One swift which had returned in 1958 and 1959, but not in 1960, did return in 1961. Thirty-three of the returns remained on the campus to nest in 1961, 23 of them nesting in the same shaft as in the previous year, and one swift which had nested in shaft VI over a period of six years, but had failed to return in 1960, resumed nesting there in 1961. One return became a temporary visitor with the nesting pairs in shafts L3 and N9.

The average number of returns since 1945 has been 44. From a low of 32 in 1945, the number increased generally until a peak return of 55 was obtained in 1955, followed by a drop to 37 in 1957. Another peak of 55 was attained in 1959. Since then the number has been about average. The previous analysis of annual returns was published in *Bird-Banding* 31 (2): 87-89. 1960.

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