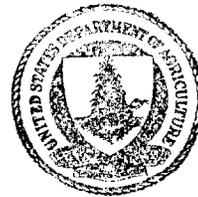




U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Press Service



Release - Immediate

December 28, 1923

ORIGIN OF STRANGE BIRD BANDS NOW KNOWN.

Responding to an appeal issued through the sporting periodicals by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture for information as to "Who Banded These Ducks," namely, two mallards, a reader of the dispatch has given the information desired.

Charles Noak, of Jennings, Missouri, states that the birds in question probably belonged to him. Both birds, which carried similar aluminum bands marked with the number "13," were killed at widely separated points in the Mississippi Valley. The recovery of the bands was reported to the Biological Survey in November by the finders, in the same manner as other information is supplied in connection with the thousands of migratory birds banded by cooperators of the Government Bureau.

Mr. Noak wrote the Biological Survey that he has made a business of raising decoy ducks, and that it is his practice to mark them with aluminum leg bands. He believes that these two birds left with flocks of wild ducks that dropped in at his pond. They were crosses between "English Call" and wild mallards and Mr. Noak thinks that they left either in March or April, 1923.

One was shot at Bear Lake, Minnesota, on October 20, 1923, by Dr. George A. Dodge, of Northwood, Iowa, and the other at Horse Shoe Lake, two miles northeast of Granite City, Illinois, on October 30, 1923, by G. A. Simon.

These records are indicative of the interesting information that is being gathered by the Biological Survey in its investigation of migratory waterfowl by means of numbered aluminum bands. Sportsmen should accordingly report every case that comes to their attention, always being careful to give the date and exact locality where the bird is obtained.

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