



**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Office of Information**

**Press Service**



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**SPORTSMEN REQUESTED TO  
REPORT BANDED WILD FOWL**

As a means of obtaining precise information relative to North American wild fowl, the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, with the aid of volunteer cooperators throughout the country, is engaged in banding large numbers of birds. The bands are made of aluminum or copper, and in addition to a serial number they carry the legend "Notify Biological Survey, Washington, D. C."

Sportsmen are requested by the Department of Agriculture to aid in these investigations by reporting to it all banded birds that come to their attention. In addition to the number that is on the band attached to the bird's leg, the date and place of capture should be given. In reply the department will supply the banding record to the person rendering the report.

At the opening of the 1928 hunting season, between 15 and 20 stations were in operation for the banding of these birds, while at many others birds have been banded in large numbers in previous seasons. These stations extend from Maine and South Carolina on the Atlantic coast, to Washington, Oregon, and California in the West, with others in the Canadian Provinces and in Alaska. More than 30,000 ducks and geese have been banded, and valuable information already has been received from the reports sent in by hunters.

Sportsmen accordingly are urged to examine the ducks and other wild fowl they kill and report every band obtained.

The following records from the banding files of the Biological Survey will illustrate the character of the information that is being accumulated: A mallard banded at Leduc, Alberta, on October 23, 1926, was killed at Robertson Lake, Texas, on November 27, 1926. Two mallards banded at Browning, Ill., in November, 1922, were killed, one near Sacramento, Calif., in December, 1923, and the other in Glascock County, Georgia, in November, 1924. Another mallard banded in January, 1923, at Cuivre Island, Mo., was killed in June of the same year at Willow Lake, Mackenzie. A baldpate, or widgeon, banded in August, at Davidson, Saskatchewan, was killed near Houston, Tex., in December of the same year. A green-winged teal banded at Avery Island, La., in December, 1922, was killed in September, 1923, at Lethbridge, Alberta, and three others banded at the same time and place were recovered in the fall of 1923 and in 1924 from points in the Sacramento Valley, Calif. Another of these little ducks, banded on the Bear River marshes, Great Salt Lake, Utah, in July, 1926, was killed in November of the same year in the State of Sinaloa, Mexico.

The problems studied by this method of research chiefly relate to the mysterious migrations of birds. New and pertinent facts are continually being brought to light through an intensive application of the banding method, and it is to aid these investigations that sportsmen are asked to cooperate by reporting all banded wild ducks and other species killed during the season.

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