



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WATERFOWL BANDING OPERATIONS EXPANDED

Twelve States will join forces with the Fish and Wildlife Service and other conservation agencies this summer in expanded waterfowl banding operations in Canada, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today. This is the first time States have participated in force.

The operations, to be conducted as part of the annual North American breeding-ground management program, call for the placing of numbered bands on the legs of wild ducks, geese, and coots. The recovery of bands from birds killed by hunters later on will furnish valuable information on distribution from waterfowl production areas and will provide solutions to many other management problems.

Wildlife workers from Colorado, Oklahoma, Wyoming, New York, Missouri, Michigan, Louisiana, Arkansas, Minnesota, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Wisconsin are scheduled to go to Canada early in July. There they will meet representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Provincial wildlife agencies to form banding crews. For a period of six to eight weeks, crews will operate in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, the Maritimes, Newfoundland, and Labrador.

Recoveries during the hunting season will bring forth facts not only on the relative importance, to the four flyways, of specific waterfowl production areas, but also on hunting pressures, mortality rates, and bird distributions. This information will guide wildlife authorities in maintaining a proper balance between available waterfowl populations and the take of birds by hunters.

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