

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter
October 2010

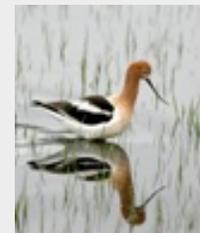
With the help of volunteers worldwide, the North American Bird Phenology Program is working to understand the scale of global climate change and how it is affecting bird populations across North America

Announcements



- All BPP participants will soon be receiving a satisfaction survey email to get feedback about participating with the program. Your opinions are very important to us so please take the time to fill it out and email it back.
- A new webpage, "[Notable Cards](#)" under Resources has been created to highlight new, interesting, funny and odd migration cards. Send us an email with an attached screen shot of a card you would like included on the page.
- The "[Top 25 Transcribers Chart](#)" has been enlarged to make participant names more visible.
- The [Contact Us](#) page has been updated to include Brandon Kell's contact information.
- A few of you mentioned dead links on the [Observer Bios](#) and [Media](#) page. Those links are now working.
- We updated the [E-Newsletters](#) page by adding some of the more recent newsletters.
- Four new volunteers started coming in to help during our new weekend office hours. If you would like to volunteer in the BPP office contact [Brandon](#).
- We have created boxing instructions for for our office volunteers to help us box and ship cards to Kentucky to be scanned.
- We have also added a new chart of office volunteer hours to the [Volunteer Hour Log](#) page.

Current Progress



Current Migration Card Count:

1,963
Online Volunteers

333,080
Cards Transcribed Online

12
Office Volunteers

581,318
Cards Scanned in BPP Office

161,253
Cards Scanned by CDMP

Quick Links

[Register to become an
online transcriber](#)

[Become an office volunteer](#)

[BPP News](#)

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

[USA-NPN](#)

What We're Working to Bring You



- We are working to load over 100,000 new cards onto the web for participants. This will add many new species and location options.
- Add a "cards transcribed per month" chart to the Charts webpage.
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- A chart for entering cards with multiple dates, sometimes spanning more than one year.
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- A prompt instructing transcribers to make a new filter selection once the current selection chosen has run out of cards.
- An "issue tracking system" that participants can use to submit problems and interested parties can request information about the program



The BPP is part of the USA-NPN which brings together citizen scientists, government agencies, non-profit groups, educators and students of all ages to monitor the impacts of climate change on plants and animals in the United States.

[Learn More....](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Volunteer of the Month

Janice Devine



Janice Devine working in the BPP office

Hi! I have had great fun sorting and scanning the bird migration cards for the BPP for the past 2 years. When I started I could tell a cardinal from a blue jay, but that was about it for my knowledge of birds. The program seemed a good excuse to learn more. Also, I was intrigued with the opportunity to work with records that extended back to the 1800s and help make their information electronically available to current and future researchers.

As with most volunteers, I participate in other volunteer programs, but they are quite different from the BPP. Once a week I serve Meals on Wheels and take a client shopping for the Red Cross Shoppers Program. In addition, I help a client with her bills for the Representative Payee Program of Montgomery County. One of my other activities is to help out at outreach events for the Montgomery County Recycling Program. It is so much fun to be retired! Now I am free to have lots enjoyable pursuits.

In my previous life, I had an interesting career as an economist for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (part of the U.S. Department of Labor) for 33 years. I retired at the end of 2003, after managing the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for the prior 6 years. I am a Washington native who has lived within an 8-mile radius all my life. Luckily, my husband, Ken Lavish, and I have a bit of the travel bug. Among our goals was to visit all 50 states. Hawaii, the 50th state, was also our 50th

Observer of the Month

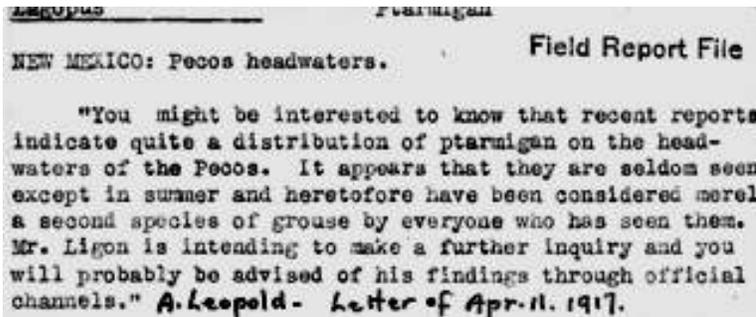
Aldo Leopold



Aldo Leopold at his desk Courtesy University of Wisconsin - Madison

Rand Aldo Leopold was born in Burlington, Iowa, on January 11, 1887, to a family of prosperous German immigrants and nature lovers. He learned fishing, hunting, and sportsmanship from his father. In 1903, the same year that President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir met in Yosemite, the Leopold family vacationed in Estes Park and Yellowstone National Park. Since his childhood, using his grandmother's opera glasses for observations, Aldo had studied birds and on this trip west, he brought his ornithology journal along to record the 40 new bird species he saw. He enjoyed drawing birds, and soon acquired the habit of using a camera to record them and their habitats.

It is exciting to see the name of Aldo Leopold, one of this country's foremost conservationists and most inspiring environmental writers, come up occasionally on observer cards being transcribed for the North American Bird Phenology Program. Leopold is probably one of the most famous names we will see among the over 3000 participants in NABPP, but it is not at all surprising to find him included. He and his family practiced the "sport and recreation" of phenology at their rural Wisconsin cabin, keeping records of the first spring flowers and of migrating birds. Leopold's writings encouraged scientists, farmers, and game managers to enhance their ecological perception through phenology, the study of nature's timing.



In 1933 the University of Wisconsin hired Leopold to head a graduate program in game management. A year later, he was part of the group founding the Wilderness Society "to organize an aggressive society for the preservation of wilderness." While raising his family in Madison, Leopold taught classes at the university and was one of the first to encourage female graduate students to get involved in ecology studies. He delivered a series of university radio talks on topics like "Plant Evergreens for Bird Shelters" and worked on a manuscript of reflections he gathered from years spent near Baraboo, Wisconsin, where the family's "shack" was their "week-end refuge from too much modernity." This book, which he titled "Great Possessions," was published shortly after his death as *A Sand County Almanac*.

Aldo Leopold died at his Sand County property on April 21, 1948. We are fortunate that his archives, amounting to almost 28 linear feet, are now digitally preserved and available through the University of Wisconsin. Through them we can see his handwriting, read unpublished journals and correspondence, and look at portraits of him at various points in his life. It is particularly moving to see family snapshots of Leopold's beloved wife and children, homes, dogs (Spud, Flip, Flick, Gus), pet crows, tree planting at the "shack," and the many study projects

with his students the "wildlifers."

A big thanks goes out to Amy Rule, a BPP participant, for writing this biography! If you would like to contribute to the BPP by writing a biography on one of our observers, please contact me.

To read Aldo Leopold's Biography in its entirety, please go to: [Aldo Leopold PDF](#)

References:

The Aldo Leopold Archives can be viewed and studied at: <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/AldoLeopold/>

Marybeth Lorbiecki. *Aldo Leopold: A Fierce Green Fire, an illustrated biography*. Helena, Montana: Falcon Publishing Company, 1996.

Julianne Lutz Newton. *Aldo Leopold's Odyssey: Rediscovering the author of A Sand County Almanac*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2006.

Trivia

This is a new section for our e-newsletter. The first person to send in the correct answer to bkell@usgs.gov will receive a prize. Please include your mailing address in your email.

Which antipodean bird is the largest member of the kingfisher family?

As always, if you have an questions, comments, suggestions or complaints, please **contact me**.

Sincerely,

Jessica Zelt

Program Coordinator
North American Bird Phenology Program
U.S. Geological Survey/ Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

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