

BIRD MIGRATION MEMORANDUM

Issued by the Branch of Wildlife Research
Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior
For the Information of Bird Migration Observers

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Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Md.

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The United States Fish and Wildlife Service is charged with the responsibility of managing the migratory bird resources of North America in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Mexican government under the terms of the migratory bird treaties between the United States and these two other nations. To do this job intelligently it is necessary to have as exact information as possible on the distribution and abundance of bird life at all seasons and from year to year.

Bird life is never static. All species are constantly increasing or decreasing either locally or over the entire population. Therefore, it requires continual vigilance in following the fortunes of all species to detect the danger signals announcing drastic changes in numbers before they progress too far.

One of the means of obtaining the necessary information is the Service's "Migration Observer" program which avails itself of the ever increasing number of persons who get into the field to observe birds. To all old cooperators the Service expresses its appreciation of a good job done. We welcome all new recruits to the important but difficult task of keeping track of our elusive bird populations.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIRD MIGRATION OBSERVERS

Nearly ten years have passed since the last instructions to bird migration observers were prepared. During that time several important changes have been made in the program to obtain more complete information on distribution and abundance: Instead of a corps of individual observers we now have the cooperation of many local bird clubs, museums and universities, which compile all records for their city or county; the card form (3-801) has been revised so as to give a much better indication of the abundance of each species; and through cooperation with the National Audubon Society it has become possible to publish the more noteworthy observations and general trends as they occur in the pages of Audubon Field Notes magazine-- thus giving the observer more adequate recognition for his work. Whereas in the past the number of participants in the program was quite limited, it is now possible for all reliable and experienced observers in North America to cooperate in one way or another.

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Giving corrections to memo. No. 2 and additional corrections
to memo. No. 1.