

# NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter  
July 2012

*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*

## Announcement

- Thanks to volunteer assistance, many New York cards have been transcribed but we still need more! If you would like to help us with an upcoming research study, please filter your selection on the transcription screen for New York migration cards. Thank you in advance!
- Jessica will be presenting a poster at the 5th North American Ornithological Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia on August 16th and 17th. If you are planning to attend, be sure to stop by and say hello!
- Volunteer Isabelle Doucet is revamping the BPP training materials. Keep an eye on the Help button on our transcription page for changes.
- Transcription of the observer card dataset has been completed. The BPP office with the help of volunteer Janice Devine we are cleaning-up the dataset before it is released.
- Webpages [BPP News](#), [Notable Cards](#), and [Observer Bios](#) have been updated.

## What We're Working to Bring You

- We are looking into updating the transcription training video.
- We are working to keep the webpages up-to-date, by adding content, keeping all links functional and secure, and providing assistance as needed.

## Volunteer of the Month

### Rosane Guimaraes

I found out about the Bird Phenology Program when reading an online magazine Wired and the words 'bird' and 'volunteer' picked my interest. After landing on BPP site I was hooked. I love nature. I love animals, and birds are special to me. It's a privilege volunteering on this project which gives me the opportunity to learn how delicate nature truly is.

I grew up in Brazil and during my childhood I had different pets-- dogs, roosters, chickens, guinea pigs, but birds were my favorite. And thinking of it now, I believe my love for birds came from my dad who had a large selection of canaries in our backyard. Swimming, biking, camping and playing volleyball are some of my favorite outdoors activities so I am constantly observing birds. On the beach, the sandpipers and the seagulls are adorable to watch.



## Current Progress



Picture by Petrina Vecchio

## Current Migration Card Count:

2,858  
Online Volunteers

658,881  
Cards Transcribed Online

4  
Office Volunteers

1,042,494  
Cards Scanned

## Quick Links

[Register to become an online transcriber](#)

[Become an office volunteer](#)

[BPP News](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#) 

## USA-NPN

Occasionally a red-headed woodpecker is working at the palm tree in my parking lot. And at home, I have my very own Zebra Finch which species I very fond of. I love its singing, its truly unique notes, and not to mention those bright red cheeks. So, when I'm not working, or not transcribing, I'm outside enjoying nature and the birds.

## Observer of the Month

### Arthur Cleveland Bent

Arthur Cleveland Bent was born on November 25, 1866, the son of William Henry Bent and Harriet Fellowes Hendee Bent. He was a lifelong resident of Taunton, Massachusetts, living as an adult diagonally across the street from his childhood home. After his mother passed away when he was only 6 years old, his father, seeing his frail son growing up, decided to start taking his son on nature walks to improve his health. Father and son would take long walks in the Taunton, as well as the neighboring towns of Rehobeth and Fall river. This is where Bent's passion for birds and nature began.

Bent was formally educated at the Bristol Academy as an adolescent and went on to attend Harvard College where he graduated, with honorable mention, a A.B. degree in 1889. From there he put his business degree to good use, working in banking before moving to positions in the cotton industry and as an executive in the utilities business. The height of his career came in 1892 when he and John Scott purchased the Plymouth Electric Light Company from General Electric for \$87,500-in notes with company bonds as collateral. In the panic of 1893, the Electric Light Company defaulted on its bonds and went bankrupt. John Scott passed away, causing Bent to buy out his interest in the company and assume the debt. Bent persuaded the General Electric Company to let him work out the situation, which he did. Later, in his sixties, after the sale of Plymouth interests, Bent was able to live on the income he had remaining and devote his life to ornithology.

On October 23, 1895, Bent married Rosalba Peale Smith, daughter of Professor Clement L. Smith, a former Dean of Harvard College. After a few months, they moved from Plymouth to Taunton where Bent became super-intendant assistant and later General Manager of the Mason Machine Works. He moved to Seamless Picket Co. in connection with the Whittier Cotton Mills where he was able to reduce his work hours to one day a week. In 1911, childless, the couple divorced.

In 1914, Bent married Madeleine Vincent Godfrey, who survived him, as did three married daughters, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. The Bents were known in Taunton as being very tight-knit, unified family.

Though Bent's business career was very successful, it was his ornithological interest which defined him. As his fascination grew as an undergraduate in college, Bent drew in close correspondence to professional and academic ornithologists throughout his life. He grew a personal collection of bird specimens of almost 3,500 skins which are now housed at the Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology. As an oologist, he established an even more extensive collection of eggs, collecting over 30,000 which were later donated to the United States National Museum.

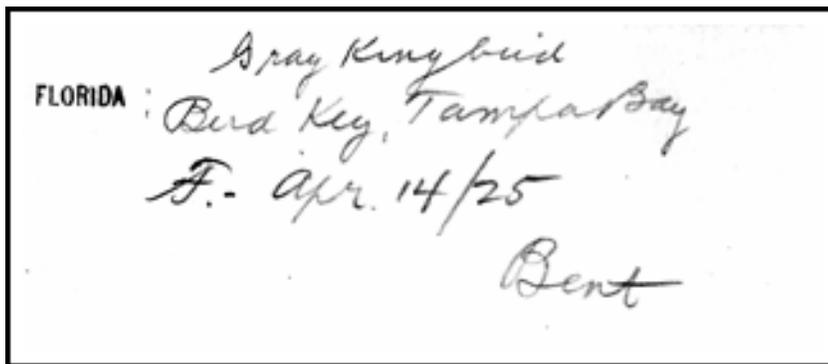
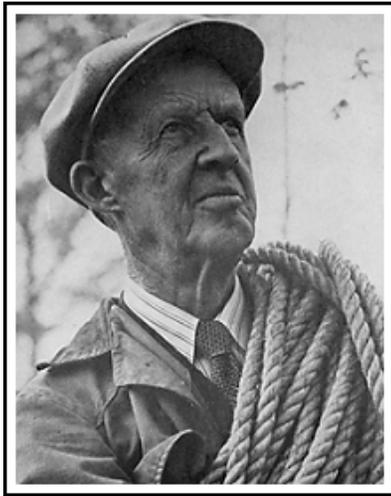
After many annual birding excursions Bent approached Spencer Baird of the Smithsonian Institution and offered to assume control of the Smithsonian series, Life Histories of North American Birds, after its founder, Charles Bendire, died in 1897. Beginning what he called his "life's work" in 1910, Bent published eighteen volumes on birds between 1919 and 1953. After passing away in 1954 a nineteenth volume appeared under Bent's name. Two more volumes were later added by Warren Taber, using many notes, photographs and outlines left in Bent's collection.



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....](#)





Information for the biography and picture were collected from the following resources:

[Five College Archives & Manuscript Collections](#)

[Tabor, Wendell. 1955. In Memoriam: Arthur Cleveland Bent. Auk: 72 \(332-339\).](#)

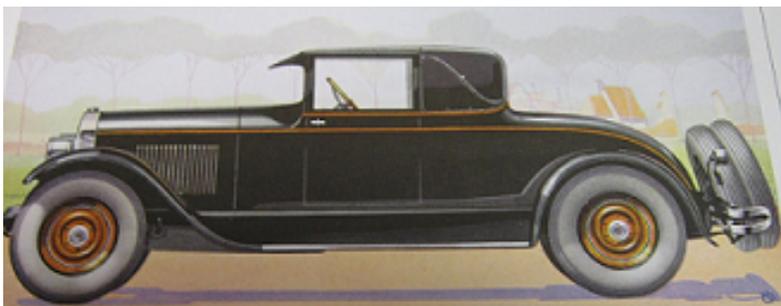
[Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History](#)

We are in need of volunteer help to put these write-ups together. If you are interested, please [contact](#) the BPP.

## Trivia

Last month's trivia question was, "The Ford Motor Company based their design of what car on Louis Agassiz Fuertes' illustration of an Oriole?"

The correct answer, sent in by Patrick Johnson, was the Lincoln Continental Two-Passenger Semi-Collapsible Coupe.



The answer was also sent in by Petrina Vecchio, Chris Eberly, Judy Reynolds, Valerie Knipping, Judy Staberow, Donna Lux Hooker, Jo Anna Gates, Rosane Guimaraes, and Janet Burnett. Thank you to all who participated!

This month's trivia question: For over 62 years, what BPP observer was the longest known contributor to the BPP dataset, submitting migration records from Ohio, New York and Florida? Hint: His records went on to contribute to the first

volume of Birds of New York by Elon Howard Eaton.

Additional information for the June trivia question can be found [here](#).

Remember to send your answers to [Jessica](#). The first person to email a correct answer will receive a BPP prize!

As always, if you have any 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



Picture by Petrina Vecchio