

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter
May 2013

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

- Computer scientist, Yassine Kodad's contract has ended with the BPP. While with us, Yassine developed the first stages of a BPP mobile application, created a system to verify bird species with various historical common, local, and scientific names, and revamped our Validate-O-Rama system. Working with him was a delight and he will be missed!
- A new [map](#) has been created by volunteer Robert Turk and the BPP Office to show website visitors and program participants the number of records validated through our 'Validate-O-Rama' system. The tally above the map will reload each time the page is opened or refreshed. The map shows where each validated observation was originally recorded. To view, go to [Maps](#).



- Volunteer, Robert Turk made several updates to the [BPP website](#)
 - Links were moved from the PWRC/BARC webpage to the [Contact Us](#) webpage and PWRC/BARC was deleted.
 - Other Publications webpage was deleted.
 - The two [Maps](#) pages were combined and moved under the Research menu tab.
 - BPP News webpage was deleted.
 - Media under the About menu tab was changed to [Press](#)
- BPP webpages [Newsletters](#), [Notable Cards](#), and [Observer Bios](#) have been updated with current information.
- If you would like to take part in preparation for an upcoming research paper please filter your transcriptions for Maryland migration cards. Thank you in advance for your participation!
- Don't forget to [LIKE US](#) on Facebook!
- Volunteer Bob Hartman has logged over 700 hours in the BPP Office scanning bird migration cards; Thank you Bob!

Current Progress



Photograph by John Paul Benante

Current Migration Card Count:

2,256
Online Volunteers

812,422
Cards Transcribed Online

4
Office Volunteers

1,042,494
Cards Scanned

Quick Links

[Register to become an online transcriber](#)

[Become an office volunteer](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

USA-NPN



USA-NPN

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....](#)



What We're Working to Bring You

- The BPP Office is now collaborating with Ali Arab of Georgetown University and Robert Deleon of the Buffalo Ornithological Society to analyze NY bird migration data.
- The BPP Office is developing a participation survey to gather feedback from those who use the website, transcription page, and interact with program staff.
- Volunteers and staff continue to rectify errors in the observer data set. We will soon be sending the data set to the network of BPP participants to hunt down the folks we could not verify.
- We are always 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

Jo Strange



I've been asked to introduce myself, as I have just reached the milestone of having transcribed over 10,000 of the old bird record cards for the USGS, North American Bird Phenology Program, dating back into the 1800's. I've been enjoying doing these, getting my chuckles out of some of the old bird names, the attitudes of the birders ("saw 10, shot 4"), and some of the quaint expressions of the birders. I have been a birder for going on 45 years. I don't consider myself an expert, but I do enjoy

birding and love it when I get the chance to go on trips out of the area with other birders. I've enjoyed birding trips to Maine, New Mexico and Arizona, Florida, Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma. For several years I was the compiler for the Taney County, Missouri Christmas Bird Count. One of my favorite distinctions is in having Painted Buntings as yard birds for several years, off and on. I am a retired medical transcriptionist, so when I heard about the opportunity to transcribe the bird records, it sounded like fun to me. There are lots more records to be done, so I'm sure anyone else who wanted to do this would be welcome.

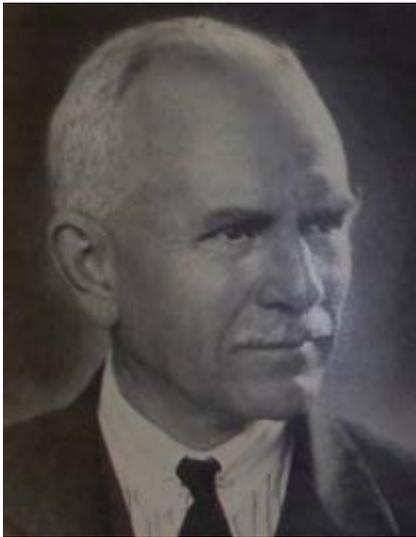
Observer of the Month

George Kruck Cherrie

George Kruck Cherrie was an American naturalist and explorer, born in Iowa in 1865. Over his lifetime Cherrie took part in approximately forty expeditions, primarily to Central and South America. He was most notably included in Theodore Roosevelt's South American Expedition of 1913-1914 where Cherrie collected specimens for the American Museum of Natural History. In 1915, Cherry went to Bolivia, accompanying the Alfred Collins-Garnet Day expedition. Cherrie later recounted his expedition experiences in his memoir *Dark Trails: Adventures of a Naturalist* (1930). Several animals were named after him, including the Cherrie's Tanager (*Ramphocelus costaricensis*). In 1927, the Boy Scouts of America Named Cherrie an Honorary Scout, a new distinction created that same year. Cherrie died in 1948.



Photograph by John Paul Benante



Photograph from inside cover of Cherrie's memoir, *Dark Trails: Adventures of a Naturalist* (1930)

Information for the biography and picture were collected from the following resource: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Kruck_Cherrie

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, What bird flies at the highest altitude between its nesting and wintering grounds?

The answer, Bar-headed Goose was sent in first by Pamela Perry. The correct answer was also sent in by Patrick Johnson, Stella Walsh, Chris Eberly, Henry Rosenthal, Valerie Knipping, and Bill Heck.

The Bar-headed Goose flies over the Himalayas each year between its wintering and nesting grounds.

This month's trivia question is: The largest known bird's nest in the United States was built by what species AND how wide did it measure?

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](#).

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



Photograph by Petrina Vecchio