

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter
October 2011

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

- Approximately 80,000 new cards have been added online over the past few weeks. You should see new species and locations available in the drop-down lists. Keep an eye out for these changes. Remember, as volunteers transcribe records you will also see species disappear from the drop-down lists.
- Several updates have been made to the [BPP website](#) over the past month including the observer list on the [FAQ](#) (thanks to Winger West!), new cards on the [notable cards](#) page, and the [observer bios](#) page.
- The [Top Transcribers of the Week](#) chart has been changed slightly. It will now count cards starting on Sunday for a 7 day period instead of starting on Monday. Thank you BPP Volunteer, Eric Turner for helping to make this adjustment.
- Please continue to make the switch over to the new v4 transcription page (<https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BPP/v4/index.php>). Comments, questions, and complaints can all be sent to the BPP office to help us improve our interface (we're listening!).
- Office volunteer Bob Hartman hit 500 volunteer hours this week-- an incredible milestone. Thank you Bob for your commitment over the past 3 years, the BPP is very grateful!

What We're Working to Bring You

- We are working on new volunteer training materials for the v4 transcription page.
- We are looking to purchase new flatbed scanners to scan letter size records and double-sided records in the BPP office.
- We are working to keep the webpage up to date, add content, keep all links functional, and provide any information you need.

Volunteer of the Month

Current Progress



Current Migration Card Count:

2,470
 Online Volunteers

501,506
 Cards Transcribed Online

5
 Office Volunteers

1,162,483
 Cards Scanned

Quick Links

[Register to become an online transcriber](#)

[Become an office volunteer](#)

[BPP News](#)

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

[USA-NPN](#)

Judy Reynolds



I grew up in Long Beach, California where I met my best friend Anne Brueggemann. She now lives in Japan she introduced me to the Bird Phenology Program. My sister, brother and I became interested in birds because of my mother. As a child, she roller-skated with her pet chicken, Kut. Later when neighborhood kids brought us a baby Meadowlark, Mom ran around the backyard flapping her arms to teach it to fly. It learned because or in spite of these lessons.

Judy Reynolds visiting the BPP Office

Since retiring from my work as an academic librarian, I moved to San Francisco where I can see a huge variety of birds because of the many different kinds of habitat in and around the City. I have been learning more about bird identification in Joe Morland's great birding classes.

I watch birds because I find their behavior very interesting and often amusing. I have had several pet birds over the years. When out bird watching, my attempts to get great bird pictures are often thwarted by birds not posing to their best advantage in the best light. Nevertheless, I still enjoy getting images as reminders of my experiences. The bird I most remember seeing was a Mountain Bluebird. It looked like a little bit of the sky fallen to earth, so blue and beautiful.

The Project is an awesome opportunity to reach out to important birders of the past and to make their work available for continuing research. I love to read the cards, many of which give little insights into the observers' lives and times. It is fun to read some of the good ones on the NABPP's Notable Migration Cards webpage.

Observer of the Month

Stuart T. Danforth



Stuart T. Danforth was born in 1900, and graduated from Rutgers in 1921. Soon thereafter he traveled to Puerto Rico to visit his father, Ralph E. Danforth, who was professor of biology at the College of Agriculture at Mayaguez. While there, he commenced observations on the birds of the Cartagena Lagoon. Supplemented by more intensive work in 1923-1924, this constituted the field work of his doctoral thesis, for which the degree was granted by Cornell University in 1925.

After a year as instructor in biology at Temple University, he succeeded his father at Mayaguez, teaching zoology and entomology there until his

premature death in 1938. He continued constant studies and collection of birds and insects, especially Coleoptera (beetles). He also studied the food of birds, not only in Puerto Rico, but also in Hispaniola,

Cuba, Jamaica, and the Lesser Antilles, especially in those area areas and islands



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!](#)

most difficult to reach. His vacations were always thus occupied, except when he visited the US to work in libraries and museums in connection with his finds.

"The ultimate aim of ornithology, to my mind, is to make use of birds to the limit of their capacity as servants of man. I believe that eventually we will know so well how to encourage and protect birds that they will be practically one hundred percent efficient in protecting our forests and crops from insect pests, and that poisonous sprays and other protective measures will be unnecessary in the vast majority of cases." From this statement, one can possibly understand how it happened that he published no entomological papers, although the large number of "Danforth" and "AMC (Agriculture and Mechanical College)" records in "Insectae Boriquensis" testify to the extent of his insect collections in Puerto Rico and his generosity in making them available for publication in other people's compilations. Although Danforth published many papers on the birds of the Lesser Antilles, the culmination of all his ornithological studies in the West Indies was the publication in 1936 of the illustrated "Los Pajaros de Puerto Rico," a handbook supposedly for school children, but actually including all the information available.

His collection of bird skins was presented to Cornell, while the remainder of his extensive collection was given to the United States National Museum (now the Smithsonian).

Name of Bird		Dendroica discolor				Year	
Locality		P.R. Borinquen				1932	
Observer		STUART T. DANFORTH					
First seen	Number seen	Next seen	Becomes common	Last seen	Common in year	Breeds	
Aug. 17	1	Sep. 21			P.R.C.	no	

Form BI-401 8-2280 GPO

Stuart T. Danforth Migration Card

This biography was written using the following resources: *Science* 24 February 1939: Vol. 89 no. 2304 pp. 169-170. DOI: 10.1126/science.89.2304.169

BPP Office Volunteer, Bob Hartman contributed this biography to our newsletter, thank you Bob!

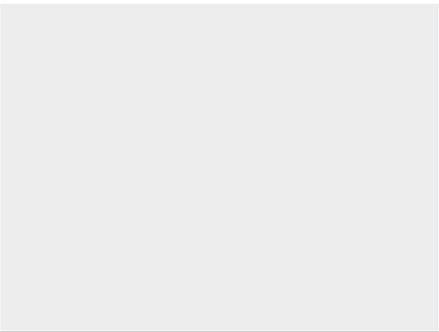
We are in need of volunteer help to put these write-ups together. If you are interested, please contact the BPP.

Trivia

Last month's question was correctly answered by Janice Devine. The question, "According to the book, American Wildlife & Plants, A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits, what food consists of over 70% of Painted bunting's diet in the summer months?" was answered correctly with "bristlegrass."

Here's this month's trivia question: May Thatcher Cooke, Wells Cooke's daughter, was the first to acquire what affiliation to the AOU?

Remember to send your answers to [Jessica](#).



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