

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter
August 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



- Exciting news! The BPP will soon be hiring two short term, full-time positions, to help with accomplishing both short-term office goals and long-term program goals. We will be posting job openings for an office assistant here at our Beltsville office and a computer programmer. If you are interested in either of these positions or know someone who is, please feel free to contact me directly.
- The BPP has ordered custom made pens, magnets, mouse pads and mugs as tokens of appreciation for BPP office and online participants.
- A BPP poster was presented by the USA-National Phenology Network at the Ecological Society of America conference on August 2nd.
- Just this past week, on August 25th, the BPP was filmed as part of the Climate Data Modernization Program Annual Video. The program will be highlighted along with other selected projects to show the impact CDMP's scanning assistance has had in accelerating the BPP's goal of reviving this important dataset on bird migration.
- The BPP will be getting it's first intern starting next week from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Prince Georges County, MD. The student will be helping with daily office tasks as well as working on an independent project using the BPP data.

What We're Working to Bring You

Current Progress



Current Migration Card Count:

1,889
Online Volunteers

317,043
Cards Transcribed Online

10
Office Volunteers

581,318
Cards Scanned in BPP
Office

46,442
Cards Scanned by CDMP

Quick Links

**Register to become an
online transcriber**

**Become an office
volunteer**

BPP News

USA-NPN



- A new page on the BPP website highlighting unique, funny and interesting BPP migration cards sent in by the transcribers.

- Chart for entering cards with multiple dates, sometimes spanning more than one year.

- A prompt instructing transcribers to make a new filter selection once the current selection you have chosen runs out of cards.

- Additional charts and maps.

Volunteer of the Month



Mary Ann Hartnett sorting cards in the BPP office

Mary Ann Hartnett

As a volunteer at PWRC, Mary Ann might be considered a rare breed because she is a native Washingtonian. She was born and lived in D.C. (east of the river) until she completed undergraduate school at Dunbarton College in 1969. After spending 2 years in New Brunswick, New Jersey, at Rutgers University, she returned to the area.

With a background in biology/environmental sciences Mary Ann began her "science career" doing air and water quality analyses for Montgomery County. After five years of the predictability and solitude of lab work, she began her "enforcement career" as a health inspector. She worked in licensing and enforcement for Montgomery County Health and Human Services for 26 years. No two days during that 26 year period were the same. In 2002, she had the opportunity to retire, and took it. Since then, Mary Ann has started another part-time "quiet career" with the Prince George's County Memorial Library system.

Mary Ann came to the Bird Phenology Program through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She began volunteering at Patuxent in 1996. Currently, she works with the Jr. Duck program, does tram tours, acts as the coordinator for the John Hollingsworth Gallery, and assists with special events and outreach. When needed, she also assists with fundraising tasks for The Washington Ear, a not-for-profit that provides reading services for the visually impaired.

Mary Ann married in 1970, has two sons and a lovely daughter-in-law. Neither son inherited an interest in science or the outdoors, but she believes that with persistence she may have turned her husband Dennis into a "tree hugger". It has taken some convincing, but he has gone from Terrapin red to a true shade of Kelly green, and uses his professional educator skills daily to share his concerns for the environment with others. Be sure to look him up at the South Track Visitor Center here at PWRC.

Observer of the Month

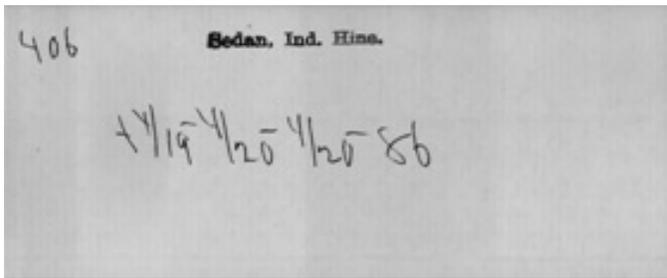


The BPP is part of the USA-NPN which brings together citizen scientists, government agencies, non-profit groups, educators and students of all ages to monitor the impacts of climate change on plants and animals in the United States.

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Jane Brooks Hine



Jane Brooks Hine bird migration card from 1886

Jane Brooks Hine was known as the Bird Woman of Indiana. Jane wrote about nature, especially the birds that frequented her farm and surrounding lakes and marshes. She was a nationally known writer and speaker at the time of her death in 1916.

Jane was born in Madison, Lake County, Ohio April 2, 1831. At age six she moved with her family to Erie County, Ohio. She attended Oberlin College in 1852/3. She married Horatio S. Hine in 1857. In 1861, they moved their family to DeKalb County, Indiana. The family eventually included six children and their home became known as Birdlawn. The adjoining farm was known as Meadow Lark. Her most famous writing was in the Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Fisheries and Game for Indiana, 1911. Jane's chapter was called Game and Land Birds of an Indiana Farm. It was placed in the cornerstone of the Courthouse in Auburn.

She wrote articles for the AUK, The Farmer's Guide and was a member of the National Ornithological Society. She was one of four women to contribute to Amos Butler's Birds of Indiana in 1898. She was given credit for the first bobolink sighting in Noble County, Indiana in 1883 by the Indiana Academy of Sciences. In 1890, the Indiana Horticultural Society of Indiana gives Jane credit for seeing the Olive-sided Flycatcher, a rare migrant. In 1914, she was invited by President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson to a party and play called Bird Masque at their summer home. This party was to call attention to the needless destruction of birds for their feathers.

In 1916, Jane passed away in DeKalb County, just shy of her 85th birthday.

Many thanks goes out to Terri Gorney who researched and wrote this fascinating biography on Jane Hine.

If you would like to take part in writing one of our Observers of the Month, please contact me.

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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