

BPP NEWSLETTER October 2014

With the help of volunteers worldwide, the North American Bird Phenology Program (BPP) is working to understand how global climate change is affecting bird populations across North America

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Monthly Migration
Card Count...

Cards Transcribed:
1,009,813
Cards Validated:
314,168
Cards Scanned:
1,042,494

Quick Links...

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USA-NPN



The USA-NPN 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.

Monthly Trivia

Last month's trivia question was: What bird has the longest recorded

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-- We have an updated Newsletter. We hope you enjoy the new format.
-- An article titled, "The Futurist," about Coordinator Jessica Zelt and the BPP, has been published in the November/December Issue of Audubon Magazine. Scanned copies of the article will be linked to our [Press](#) page soon.



-- Webpage updates have been made to the following pages: [Newsletter](#), [Observer Bios](#), [Press](#), [Coordinators](#), and [Related Links](#).
-- Edwin O'Neill Willis' BPP records are being used by Ryan Mays and Clyde Kessler for an upcoming book on the history of ornithology in Montgomery County, Virginia.
-- BPP observer records have been verified for WA, OR, NV, MT, NM, AR, FL, NJ, DE, and RI. All records will soon be made available online and eventually added to the BPP database.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

-- Validated BPP data is being sent to USGS BISON, an integrated and permanent resource for biological occurrence data from the United States.
-- Computer scientists Kevin Laurent and Yassine Kodad are developing new visualizations for the BPP website. This is expected to be a long-term project. Updates to come!



PARTICIPANT OF THE MONTH

WINK GROSS

I've been birding, with varying degrees of intensity, since I was 6 years old. Although I enjoy traveling to exotic places to look for birds, I've always had an affinity for "patch birding"-finding an unusual bird in a familiar location (my "patch"), or just welcoming the arrival of a migrant. Now that I'm retired, I go birding everyday; most often with the dog in my Portland, OR neighborhood

non-stop flight? The answer, Bar-tailed godwit was first answered correctly by Patrick Johnson.

Dick Hoffman, Bill Heck, Carolyn Bunker, Jeff Staberow, Bonnie Ingram, Robert Hartman, Chris Eberly and Maria Tedesco also sent in the correct answer.

This month's trivia question is: What bird is native to the Galapagos Islands and got its common name from feeding on the blood of other birds?

Send your answer in to [Jessica](#). First correct answer wins a BPP prize.

and recording everything I find. Thus, I feel a connection with the observers, many of them patch birders, who recorded their sightings year after year. No doubt they too hoped their observations would have scientific value, but, unlike me, they didn't have eBird to submit data to. So, it's personally very satisfying to help these long ago birders finally contribute to science. A further thrill was to discover phenology cards submitted by my grandfather, Alfred O. Gross, when he was a student at the University of Illinois ([see Observer bio](#)). Consequently, most of the cards I've transcribed are from Illinois.

Because many birds travel great distances, they connect us across space. The same Warbling vireo I greet in my neighborhood at the end of April, perhaps was seen a week earlier by a birder in Tucson. And my grandfather recorded a Warbling vireo in Illinois on May 6, 1904. So, I like to think that birds also connect us across time. The species we observe today, our ancestors noted in their day. I fervently hope my grand-children's children will still be able to enjoy the same birds in their time.



OBSERVER OF THE MONTH

REMINGTON KELLOGG

Arthur Remington Kellogg (he soon dropped his first name) was born in Davenport, Iowa, on October 5, 1892 to Clara Louise (Martin) and Rolla Remington Kellogg. When Remington Kellogg was 6 years old, the family moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he grew up. In his spare time outside of school, Kellogg would study wildlife in the nearby woods and had prepared a small collection of birds and mammals by the time of his high school graduation.



Kellogg's interest in natural history collections led him to the University of Kansas where he studied entomology and later mammalogy. From 1913 to 1916, he was a taxonomic assistant under Charles D. Bunker, the curator of birds and mammals in the Museum of Natural History at

the university. Kellogg received his A.B. and M.A. in 1915 and 1916 respectively. In the winter of 1915-1916, Kellogg worked for the Biological Survey in southeastern Kansas and, the following summer, in North Dakota. In the fall of 1916, Remington moved to Berkeley to study marine mammals at the University of California Berkeley.

In 1917 during World War I, Kellogg enlisted in the Army and was stationed in France. During this time he still found time to collect specimens which he sent back to Berkeley and the University of Kansas. After being discharged in July of 1919, Kellogg returned to Berkeley to complete his doctorate, transferring from zoology to study vertebrate paleontology under Merriam.

At the request of John C. Merriam, Kellogg was given a teaching fellowship and studied fossil pinnipeds, publishing his first important papers on the subject in 1920 and 1921. In 1921 he became assistant biologist for the Biological Survey based in Washington DC, where he worked for the next eight years. He focused primarily with studying toads, the feeding habits of hawks and owls, and the fossilized marine mammals of Calvert Cliffs in Maryland. He added considerably to the collections created by previous expeditions to Calvert Cliffs and used the experience he gained as the basis for his Ph.D thesis, entitled *The History of Whales - Their Adaptation to Life in the Water*. In his thesis, he studied the specializations needed for mammalian organs to adjust to life in water.

In 1928 Kellogg became assistant curator at the United States National Museum and in 1941 became curator. In 1948 he was appointed director of the Museum and later in 1958 was made assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1951.

His Ph.D thesis had established him as an authority on cetaceans, and with concern growing for whale protection, in 1930 he was invited to speak at a conference on whaling held by the League of Nations. This experience led to other conferences and Kellogg was appointed as a US delegate to the International Conference on Whaling held in London in 1937, which resulted in the first protection for whales, the International Agreement for the Regulation of Whaling. Kellogg was head of the US delegation in two additional conferences in 1944 and 1945 and was chairman of the 1946 conference, after which he became the US commissioner on International Whaling Commission from 1949 to 1967. He served as vice-chairman of the Commission from 1949 to 1951 and chairman from 1952 to 1954.

After retiring in 1962, Kellogg continued to work, publishing nine papers on fossil marine mammals between 1965 and 1969. He died of a heart attack at his home in Washington in May of 1969.

Resources for this biography include:

Frank C. Whitmore, Jr. (1975). "Remington Kellogg". Biographical Memoirs V.46. National Academy of Sciences (NAS). pp. 159-174.

Unknown. A. Remington Kellogg. Digital image. Smithsonian Institution Archives. Smithsonian Institution, n.d. Web. 31 Oct. 2014.



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