

# NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter  
August 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

- Jessica will be attending the USGS Citizen Science Workshop, September 10-13, where she'll be giving a presentation on "The North American Bird Phenology Program: Reviving a Historic Program in the Digital Age."
- September 28-29, Jessica will be representing the BPP at the iDigBio's Public Participation in Digitization Workshop, giving a talk on "Engaging the Public in Science."
- Keep transcribing New York cards! We have many transcriptions but there are still cards available that are needed before we start analysis for an upcoming research study. Thank you for your continued support as we finish transcribing these records!
- The BPP presented a poster at the 5th North American Ornithological Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. The poster will soon be posted to the BPP News page under Posters.

## What We're Working to Bring You

- The BPP Office, together with volunteers Isabelle Doucet and Robert Turk, have been creating a new training manual with an updated FAQ sheet. The training manual will include information currently on the About page, a complete tutorial on the transcription page, and new resources such as troubleshooting for the transcription page. Video tutorials will also be updated and added to the training manual. Once completed, an email will be sent out to volunteers to alert everyone of the changes.
- The BPP office, with the help of volunteer Janice Devine, are cleaning-up the observer dataset before it is released and added to our database.
- 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

### Current Progress



Picture by Petrina Vecchio

### Current Migration Card Count:

2,941

Online Volunteers

669,070

Cards Transcribed Online

5

Office Volunteers

1,042,494

Cards Scanned

### Quick Links

[Register to become an online transcriber](#)

[Become an office volunteer](#)

[BPP News](#)

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USA-NPN

## Jade Hems

My love of birds began when I moved to the Gulf Coast region of Texas, and began seeing the beautiful Egrets, Herons, Spoonbills and Ibis. I especially love watching these wetland species and am so lucky to see them around my home and when I visit nearby State Parks and Wildlife Refuges.

My other great love is my backyard birds. Over the last eight years I have been working to create a welcoming habitat in my backyard by planting native plants in order to provide food and shelter. I have several bird feeders and always look forward to seeing my regular visitors every day and to the arrival of the migrants each season.

I participate in citizen science projects as a way to help the birds I love, that bring me so much enjoyment. The BPP came to my attention when I read a news story about this valuable set of records and I went to the website to see what it was all about. The migration cards captured my interest and I always enjoy seeing which species were being observed in the past and other observer notes, while I am transcribing. I think it is very important to preserve these records and I am very happy to be a part of this project.



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....](#)

## Observer of the Month

### Stephen S. Gregory, Jr.

Stephen S. Gregory, Jr. was born in Chicago on May 20, 1888, son of Stephen S. Gregory and Janet M. Tappan. He attended Chicago Latin School, received his A.B. from Yale University in 1911, and an M.E. from the University of Wisconsin in 1913. He became the organizer and later president of the Gregory, De Long, and Hold, Inc., professional investment advisers.

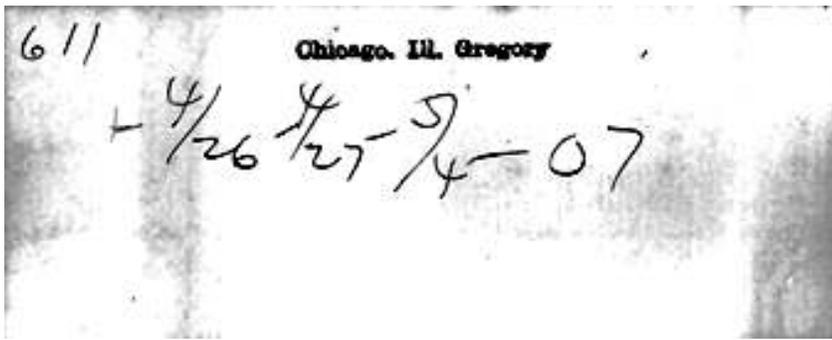
Stephen Gregory was a lifelong member of the American Ornithologist Union. He became an Associate Member of the A.O.U. in 1906, was made Elective Member in 1934, served on the Endowment committee from 1943-49 and the Finance Committee 1951-54, and was Chairman of the Investing Trustees from 1956-60. He was president of the Chicago Ornithological Society, a director of the Illinois Audubon Society for several years, and was charter member of the Kennicott Club. In addition, Stephen was member of the Wilson Ornithological Society, the Cooper Ornithological Society and the American Society of Mammalogists. Not only was he credited for his extensive accomplishments but also welcoming to the younger generation of ornithologists. Some recalled his friendliness at A.O.U. Meetings where he would often invite them to gatherings of the "inner circle" of professional ornithologists. This enabled the young men to meet some of the elite members of the ornithological world.

As a naturalist in the Chicago area, Stephen observed the coming and going of birds and reported his data into the U.S. Biological Survey. A letter from W.W. Cooke on file at the Chicago Academy of Sciences, dated June 25, 1907, reads: "Thank you most heartily for your extra good notes on the arrival of birds this spring. We are glad to enroll you on the list of our observers."

Stephen also amassed a large collection of specimens over the years, numbering over 4,000, by his own hand and by buying other collections. Included were four Passenger Pigeons, five Ivory-billed Woodpeckers and six Carolina Parakeets. Except for 240 Michigan skins, all were donated by Mrs. Gregory to the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

Stephen married Jean W. Stirling on April 19, 1917, with whom he had three daughters. He passed away after years of illness on December 20, 1964.





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

Bailey, Alfred M. 1965. In Memoriam: Stephen S. Gregory. Auk: 82, No. 4 (683-686).

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, "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."

The correct answer, sent in by Rosane Guimaraes, was Seymour R. Ingersoll.

After Seymour Ingersoll passed away his daughter continued in her father's legacy by continuing to submit records:

State: New York Third Card: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post Office: Vestalton Spa  
 Name of Observer: Ingersoll, S. R. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Continued by his daughter, Mrs. Geo. W. DeRidder.

INFORMATION CONTRIBUTED UPON:	YEAR:																		
BREEDING																			
DISTRIBUTION																			
ENGLISH SPARROW																			
FOOD OF BIRDS																			
MIGRATION		S.F.	F.S.F.S.F.	S.F.S.	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
RICE BIRDS		1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1934					
WINTER BIRDS		1915	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940												
MISCELLANEOUS																			

Observer card for Mrs. George W. DeRidder, Seymour Ingersoll's daughter

This month's trivia question: What famous ornithologist was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder in 1924?

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