

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter
June 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

Announcements

- Charlotte Cook-Fuller, BPP volunteer from Baltimore, Maryland, transcribed her 100,000th migration card on June 18th, 2012. Charlotte has dedicated countless hours to transcribing for the program since September of 2009. Her work, along with the work of volunteers across the world, are making it possible for this dataset to be used in research. Thank you Charlotte for your tremendous contribution!
- The BPP's first publication, "Reviving a Legacy Citizen Science Project to Illuminate Shifts in Bird Phenology," has been published in the International Journal of Zoology's special issue, The Role of Citizen Science and Volunteer Data Collection in Zoological Research. The paper is now linked to our [Research](#) page.
- A fact sheet highlighting the substantial work the USGS Data Rescue Project has achieved for programs, including the BPP, was recently published: [USGS Data Rescue Fact Sheet](#).
- Two Georgetown University interns have started working with the BPP for the summer. Sam Osea will be working closely with the observer card data performing various scrubs and preliminary analyses for later intensive statistical analyses. Yassine Kodad will be working on developing a mobile application for the BPP as well as developing data visualizations.
- Volunteer Isabelle Doucet updated and modified the [Related Links](#) webpage.
- David H. Wallace, member of the Maryland Ornithological Society, spent almost two decades recording daily observations of birds in his local Frederick area. He generously gave his collection of records over to the BPP which we have just completed scanning. Bob Hartman, BPP volunteer, has taken on the responsibility of transcribing this dataset.
- A new double-sided flatbed scanner was purchased for the BPP program. This will help the office scan large and/or double-sided records.

What We're Working to Bring You

- Isabelle Doucet has volunteered to work with the BPP office to update online training materials.
- We are working on modifying and updating the [Featured Photos](#) page.
- 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

Denise Napora

My husband and I have two children and we reside in western New York. My greatest birding thrill has been the comeback of the Bald Eagle. It's also cool to watch the nestcams of local breeding pairs of Peregrine

Current Progress



Picture by Petrina Vecchio

Current Migration Card Count:

2,837
Online Volunteers

648,275
Cards Transcribed Online

6
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



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.

Falcons each spring. The natural sciences have always fascinated me and lead me to pursue a degree in biology at the State University at Buffalo.



When a nature column in our local newspaper featured the North American Bird Phenology Program, I checked it out and was hooked. It has been so interesting to read the cards entered by so many people over multiple decades. Transcribing cards is interesting and educational at the same time as unfamiliar bird names and locations come up. I count it a privilege to help in some small way to compile the data gathered, so that it can be analyzed.

Observer of the Month

Louis Agassiz Fuertes



Louis Agassiz Fuertes was born in 1874 and grew up in Ithaca, NY. From youth, Fuertes showed an interest in birds and the outdoors; even capturing an owl that his parents found tied by its leg to the kitchen table. In 1888 when Fuertes was just fourteen he drew and painted his first bird; a male Red

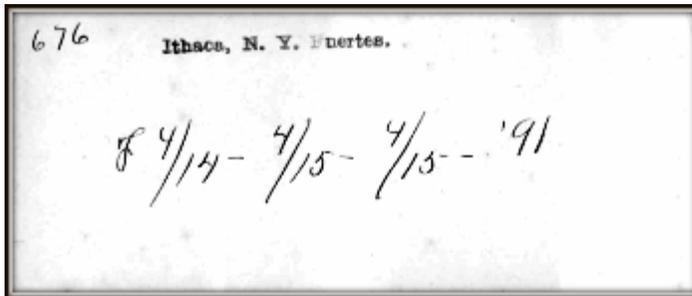
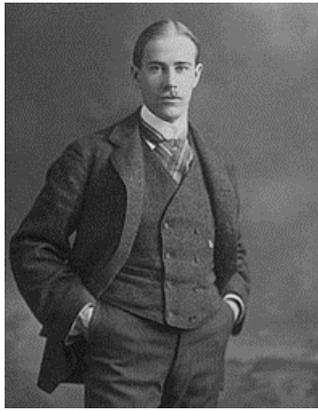
Crossbill. Fuertes went to college at Cornell University, where his father taught. In November of 1896, Dr. Elliot Coues introduced Fuertes to the scientific community at the American Ornithologists' Union annual meeting in Cambridge, MA. There he gave a talk on his thesis for Cornell, about the purpose of coloration in birds, particularly the vivid colors of many male species which was well received. After graduating from Cornell, Fuertes studied art with Abbot H. Thayer who remained a friend to Fuertes throughout his life. Fuertes decided to concentrate his paintings on birds, in part due to the influence of his mentor, Elliott Coues. Fuertes traveled to Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica and Ethiopia in pursuit of birds.

Fuertes married his college sweetheart, Margaret F. Sumner, in 1904. Together they had two children, Mary and Sumner. Tragically, Fuertes died in 1927, when a car he was driving was hit by a moving train.

Fuertes' art went on to appear in most of the leading American ornithological works published during the latter of his lifetime. He is well known for murals and habitat groups at the American Museum of Natural History as well as "Birds of New York," a book covering almost every eastern North American species.

[Learn More...](#)





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

- [PBS: Harriman Expedition Retraced](#)
- [National Geographic: Bird Illustrations by Louis Agassiz Fuertes](#)
- [Wikipedia: Louis Agassiz Fuertes](#)

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, "How many children did Joseph and Maria Bicknell have (Eugene Pintard Bicknell's parents)?"

The correct answer, sent in by Chris Eberly, was "eleven."

The answer was also sent in by Judy Reynolds and Rosane Guimaraes. Thank you to all who participated!

This month's trivia question:
The Ford Motor Company based their design of what car on Louis Agassiz Fuertes' illustration of an Oriole?

Remember to send your answers to [Jessica](#). The first person to email a correct answer will receive a BPP prize!

Bonus "Times never Change" Card...

Sent in by Judy Reynolds and Petrina Vecchio.

Name of bird <u>Shoveler Duck</u>						
Locality <u>N. Y. - Watertown</u>						Year <u>1945</u>
Observer <u>M.A. Common</u>						
First seen	Number seen	Next seen	Became common	Last seen	Breeds	Winters
<u>Mar. 13</u>	<u>8</u>				<u>no</u>	<u>no</u>
<p><u>Could not visit habitat due to gas shortage.</u></p> <p>2-501 January 1946 GPO 10-14100</p>						

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