

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter
April 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

- On April 14th, Jessica spoke at the American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA, about the history of the N.A. Bird Phenology Program.
- On May 18th, Jessica will be participating in a panel discussion in Washington, D.C. for the National Archives, "Are You In: Citizen Archivists, Crowdsourcing, and Open Government."
- We have begun testing the v4 transcription page. After a short period and some revisions this new version will be released on the BPP website.
- Congratulations to Michaeline who will complete her internship and independent study with the BPP in the next few weeks. She will be putting her project on the web to share with the BPP participants. Please keep your eye on the [Research](#) page.
- Scanning BPP cards at SourceCorp continues to be on hold. Until then we will continue to scan migration cards in the BPP office.
- Scanning of nest, egg, double-sided and large records continues. Images of these records will eventually be uploaded onto the BPP website.
- Remember- you can download an initial data set of 40,000 migration records at [Download Data](#).

What We're Working to Bring You

- We are currently uploading new species to be transcribed. Keep an eye on the species drop down lists on the transcription page for additional options.
- 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

Anne Brueggeman



I was born and raised in Long Beach, California. After college I moved to San Francisco where I taught jr. and sr. high special ed for several years. In 1981 I moved to Takasaki, Gunma Japan where I have been teaching English ever since!

Birds have always interested me, but it was probably about

20 years ago that I got a good pair of binoculars and became more serious about birding.

Current Progress



Current Migration Card Count:

2,209
Online Volunteers

439,966
Cards Transcribed Online

8
Office Volunteers

581,318
Cards Scanned in BPP Office

232,417
Cards Scanned by CDMP

Quick Links

[Register to become an online transcriber](#)

[Become an office volunteer](#)

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USA-NPN



The BPP is part of the USA-NPN which brings together citizen

I rely on my bicycle to get around. One of my favorite things is to spend a couple hours bicycling around the Takasaki countryside enjoying the scenery and looking for birds.

Common birds here include Jungle & Carrion Crows, Brown-eared Bulbuls, Butcher Shrikes, Azure-winged Magpies, Bush Warblers, various wagtails, Tree Sparrows, Japanese White-eyes, Gray Starlings, Oriental Green-finches, cormorants, Spot-billed Ducks, Green-winged Teals, Pintails, Wigeons, Mandarin Ducks, Little and Great Egrets, Gray Herons, Black-crowned Night-herons and Common Kingfishers. Unfortunately I have noticed a big decrease in the number of the last 5 listed, due mainly to disappearance of habitat.

Doing cards while listening to classical music relaxes me. It is also a way to keep in touch with my native country! I feel a connection with the past and find myself wondering how an observer years ago felt upon seeing an unusual bird or huge numbers of birds. How surprised he/she would be to learn that years later a person thousands of miles away would be copying his comments on to an electrical screen! I am always on the lookout for a card written the day one of my relatives or friends was born. I love reading the comments, too, except when the observer talks about killing the bird, in order to study it. I am glad we rely on cameras instead of guns now.

Besides doing cards in Takasaki, I have transcribed in Tokyo, Seoul, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Alaska and Arizona. And of course I have looked for birds in all these places and others and always have my binoculars and camera with me.

Many of my students who knew nothing about birds have developed an interest after hearing me constantly comment on them!

Observer of the Month

Edward Alexander Preble

Edward Alexander Preble was a naturalist and conservationist who conducted major field explorations of the birds and mammals of the northwest regions of Canada and the United States. Preble was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, and developed a strong interest in natural history during his youth in Wilmington, Massachusetts, and summers in Ossipee, New Hampshire. Early natural history contacts included Frank Blake Webster and Frank Harris Hitchcock. Through his acquaintance with Hitchcock, Preble was appointed a field naturalist with the Bureau of Biological Survey in 1892 under C. Hart Merriam.



Preble began his field work with Vernon Bailey in Texas, and worked in Georgia, Maryland, Oregon, Washington, and Utah, conducting life zone samplings. In 1900 Preble began his major field explorations for the bureau with a trip to the Hudson Bay region of Canada with his brother, Alfred Emerson Preble. In 1901 the Preble brothers traveled and collected in the Athabasca-Mackenzie (Canada) regions. Edward Preble remained in the Mackenzie River region alone through the winter of 1903-1904. The results of these explorations were published in *A Biological Investigation of the Athabasca-Mackenzie Region*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, North American Fauna 27, 1908.

In 1914 Preble, Wilfred H. Osgood, and George H. Parker served on a federal commission to study and report on the fur seals of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. In addition to the report, published in 1915, Preble also compiled *A Biological Investigation of the Pribilof Islands*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, North American Fauna 46, 1923. Preble's last major field exploration was an investigation of the status of waterbird's of the Athabasca and Peace River deltas with Luther J. Goldman in 1934. Preble kept detailed field diaries and notebooks with observations on his physical surroundings, weather, and people he encountered. Preble's research for the Bureau of Biological Survey resulted in faunal surveys and conservation/wildlife management reports, with few systematic or taxonomic studies.

In addition to field explorations, Preble always recorded observations of the local flora, fauna and physical surroundings in Massachusetts, New

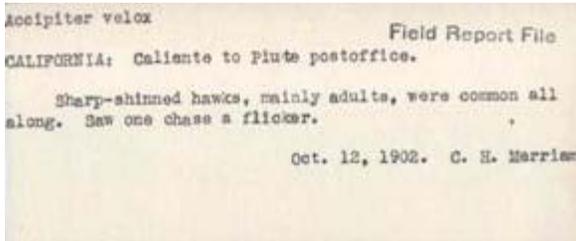
scientists, government agencies, non-profit groups, educators and students of all ages to monitor the impacts of climate change on plants and animals in the United States.

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Hampshire, and the Washington, D.C., area. With Waldo McAtee and Alexander Wetmore, he conducted local bird counts for the National Audubon Society that were published in Bird-Lore.

In his later years with the Bureau of Biological Survey as senior biologist, Preble became very interested in wildlife management and conservation. In 1925 Preble was appointed consulting naturalist for Nature Magazine, and in 1935 he retired from government service to become associate editor. Until his death in 1957, he edited, reviewed, and wrote articles for Nature Magazine, the publication of the American Nature Association.



Thank you Bob Hartman for contributing this observer biography to our newsletter!

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

Trivia

Congratulations to last month's winner, Gary Randolph, who answered correctly that C. Hart Merriam developed a "life zone" theory in the early 1900's which postulated that temperature extremes were the principal factor in determining the geographic distribution of organisms. He also championed an extensive detailing of taxonomic categories for animals. This debate on scientific classification later led Merriam to attempt to influence the President Roosevelt on Indian affairs..

Here's this months trivia question, remember to send your answers to [Jessica](#).

Relying on waterfowl banding data, what concept did Fred Lincoln develop which is still used today for establishing hunting regulations?



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