

# NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter  
April 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*

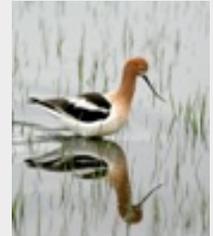
## Announcements



- We have just launched the new BPP Website: [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp/](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp/)! The format has changed to a drop down menu on the homepage which will grow as the program grows. We have added additional information and resources and will continue to bring new features, charts, maps and other information to the site.
- The FAQ sheet has changed. There is now a key at the top of the page to answer many of the transcription questions I frequently get asked. There is also a printable PDF of the FAQ for your convenience.
- Winger West's "List of Observers" is now available on the left-side panel of the transcription screen before you sign in.
- The BPP fact sheet and brochure have been updated and linked to the BPP News Page- check them out!
- The BPP now has an organization page on Facebook. If you are interested, become a fan, meet some of your fellow transcribers and take part in discussions.
- The BPP was recently awarded a grant from USGS Data Rescue! Funds will go to managing and expanding the BPP.
- There is a new section to the newsletter- "Volunteer of the Month." There are so many dedicated volunteers who contribute to the BPP and I wanted to highlight some of you. I may not get to everyone- but I'll sure try!

## What We're Working to Bring You

### Current Progress



### Current Migration Card Count:

1,822  
Online Volunteers

271,230  
Cards Transcribed Online

14  
Office Volunteers

581,318  
Cards Scanned

### Quick Links

[Register to become an  
online transcriber](#)

[Become an office  
volunteer](#)

[BPP News](#)

[USA-NPN](#)



• 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



### Vincent Wardhaugh

Vince Wardhaugh has always liked birds, having pet parakeets when he was young, to cockatiels and parrots when he got older. He wasn't much of a wild bird watcher and didn't know much about them, but still enjoyed nature and have spent weeks, sometimes month's at a time camping and photographing in many of Canada's boreal forests. Although Vince currently resides in Belleville, Ontario, he attended high school in Highland Park, Illinois and spent some time in Hawaii & Pennsylvania as well as Vancouver & Edmonton in his younger years.

Vincent Wardhaugh

Having a career in Network Administration and as a software support specialist, Vince has helped in other online science experiments and projects over the years, most importantly in 1997 assisting Astronomer's in Kunming, China in their "Remote Present Observation Project" featuring Mars and it's moons using the older IRC (ChatNet) communications medium. The project and Vince's contribution was published in Science Magazine's April 11th, 1997 issue. It also was presented to The International Astronomical Union convention in Japan a few years later. Vince also allows universities to use the unused bandwidth on his PC by folding proteins for medical applications, a project anyone online can take part in. Presently Vince is convalescing after a bad fall five years ago and when not in the field with his camera, enjoys learning about and transcribing information about our avian friends. Being a grandfather to eight wonderful kids, Vince said, "I firmly believe that this project is extremely important to present and future generations and pleased to see it expand into middle and high school nature curriculum's across North America." Vincent has transcribed 30,000 bird migration cards for the BPP since registering in March 2009

## Observer of the Month

### Norman and Stuart Criddle



**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...](#)

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Courtesy of: Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas  
Criddle Family Portrait

The Criddle family became a famous part of Manitoba, Canada history, not only for their long spanning legacy in the area, but for their notable contributions as naturalists, known for detailed and long-term records of fauna and flora. Percy and Alice Criddle moved, with their four children, and five children Percy had with his mistress Elise Vane, to Manitoba from England in 1882. There they established a homestead with 6000 acres of land and 500 head of beef cattle. The Criddle family's studies included long-term weather records, one of the first breeding-bird censuses, one of the longest migration chronologies in North America, and a detailed floral calendar. Brothers Norman and Stuart Criddle recorded migration data for what is now the North American Bird Phenology Program. Norman Criddle (1875-1933) besides being a naturalist, was also a painter and some of his drawings were published in government books on Canadian plants. Norman was employed as entomological field officer for Manitoba and in 1919 was appointed entomologist, a position he held until his death. Norman conducted extensive research in the field of entomology, becoming known as the "dean of entomology" in western Canada and was recognized for creating the "Criddle mixture," a grasshopper control in response to the grasshopper outbreak of 1902. Stuart Criddle (1877- 1971) was enlisted in the 79th Regiment from 1916 to 1919. After returning to the farm, he became an active gardener and developed an officially recognizes strain of lily, *Lilium stuart criddlei*. He was appointed honorary game guardian in the 1930's, a position he held until moving to Sidney, British Columbia in 1960.

Name of bird <i>Pine Grosbeak</i>		Year <i>1930</i>	
Locality <i>TREESDALE, MAN. (a. QUEEN)</i>	Observer <i>N. Criddle</i>		
First seen <i>Oct 21</i>	Number seen <i>4</i>	Next seen <i>Oct 22</i>	Beards <i>C</i>
		Dec 31	<i>no</i>

Norman Criddle Migration Card

Wings <i>4</i>	Name of bird <i>Pine Grosbeak</i>		Year <i>1899</i>	
Locality <i>Stuart Criddle Treesdale, Man.</i>	Observer			
First seen <i>Oct 27</i>	Number seen <i>3</i>	Next seen <i>Oct 29</i>	Beards <i>no</i>	Winters <i>yes</i>
		<i>R.</i>		

Stuart Criddle Migration Card

For more information on the Criddle Family, please visit the following:

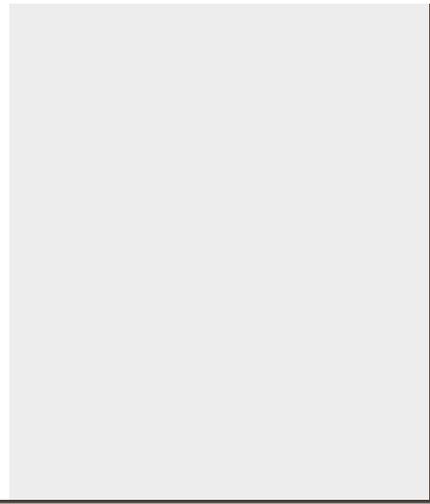
**Department of Parks and Natural Areas, Manitoba, Canada**  
**Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame, Norman Criddle**  
**The Manitoba Historical Society, Norman Criddle**

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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