

# NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter  
December 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*

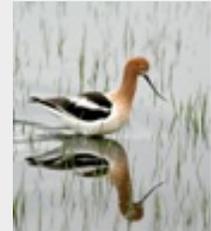
## Announcements



- Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to everyone! Thank you for your participation this year with the Bird Phenology Program and hope it continues into the new year.
- Jason Courter, a PhD student at Clemson, and Michaeline Fraser, High School intern from Roosevelt High, have given us updates on their research projects using the BPP data. Please visit the [Research Results](#) page to read about their progress.
- As many of you have already noticed, we are mailing tokens of appreciation to transcribers who reach transcription milestones. Those milestones are: 100-Certificate, 500-Pen, 1,000-Magnet, 2,000 Mouse Pad, and 5,000- BPP Mug.
- We've added a "favicon" to the [BPP webpage](#), when you bookmark the page, our logo will now appear next to our name.
- 2010 [Satisfaction Survey](#) results were sent out on December 14th.
- New registrants are directed to the [V3 data entry](#) page instead of the [V2 data entry](#) from the registration confirmation email.
- A cards transcribed chart has been added to the [Charts page](#) under Data & Stats.
- Three new volunteers have started coming into the BPP office this month. If you would like to volunteer in the BPP office contact [Brandon](#).
- Links on the registration confirmation email have been added to include links directly to the v3 transcription page and BPP homepage.

## What We're Working to Bring You

### Current Progress



### Current Migration Card Count:

**2,204**  
Online Volunteers

**362,996**  
Cards Transcribed Online

**16**  
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](#)

[BPP News](#)

[Find us on Facebook](#)

### USA-NPN



- Transcription tally bar on [V3 page](#) is being updated and reformatted to be more easily viewed.
- Assign latitude and longitude to cards once they've been transcribed.
- We are working to keep the webpage up to date, keep all links functional, and provide any information you need.

## Volunteer of the Month

### Thomas J. Mikell



Thomas J. Mikell  
in the Bpp office

My interest in The North American Bird Phenology Program was sparked by a life long desire to learn more about the migratory practices of birds. As a youth, and living in a costal environment, I watched birds move from one area of South Carolina to another and always had a concern for their survival and how they protected themselves against the elements. Being able to support the efforts of the Bird Phenology Program affords me the opportunity to preserve history and satisfy my curiosity of the impact of global changes on the survival

of birds.

This volunteer experience has given me a chance to give back in a small way, as I have spent my professional life in design and building of structures which may have impacted the migratory practices and habitat of birds. Helping transition information recorded by many ordinary people that will now become building blocks of history is very rewarding.

## Observer of the Month

### Albert Kenrick Fisher



Left to right: V.O. Bailey, C.H. Merriam, T.S. Palmer, and A.K. Fisher

Albert Kenrick Fisher, known as A.K. to friends, was born in 1856 in Sing Sing, NY. As a child, he loved to explore the countryside surrounding his home. His explorations stimulated his interest in the natural world.

In 1879, Fisher graduated from Columbia University with a medical degree. He practiced medicine in his home town until 1885, when his former college classmate and friend C. Hart Merriam convinced him to join efforts in establishing the USDA's Division of Economic

Ornithology and Mammalogy.

In 1891, A.K. Fisher participated in the Biological Survey of Western States, a scientific expedition commissioned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct a biological survey of parts of California, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah. Fisher's "Ornithology and the Death Valley Expedition of 1891" took from these



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....](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

surveys.

Euphagus cyanocephalus  
CALIFORNIA. High Sierra.  
A Flock was observed feeding in a meadow near Trout Meadows on the route from Kern River Lakes on the south from Kern River Lakes to Mineral King. Mr. Nelson observed a flock of twenty or more sitting on the backs of sheep feeding on the parasites.  
Aug. 23 to Sept 12, 1891. Fisher.

While balancing the need for conservation, Fisher concentrated on research to control species damaging livestock, agriculture, and forests. In 1905, the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy became the Bureau of Biological Survey, which was consolidated in 1940 with the Bureau of Fisheries to form the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fisher retired in 1931, having published nearly 150 papers ranging from predatory birds and their relationship to humans, to economic zoology, and the geographic distribution of species including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and various invertebrates.

Fisher died in Washington, D.C. on June 12, 1948, at the age of 92. Friends remembered him as a lover of the natural world, a delightful host, and an expert cook who thrilled guests with dishes of seafood and game.

References

"Wildlife Damage Management." USDA - APHIS. 28 June 2007. Web. 16 Dec.2010. <[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/nwrc/about/history/albert\\_fisher.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/about/history/albert_fisher.shtml)>.

To read this biography in its entirety please visit [USDA-APHIS](#).

Thanks to Bob Hartman, a BPP office volunteer, for contributing this biography.

## Trivia

Congratulations to last month's winner, Tara Patterson, who answered correctly that heart attacks being the cause of death of turkeys during Air Force sound barrier tests.

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

This bird was once known as Illinois Summer Finch?

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

[Forward this email](#)

Email Marketing by

 **SafeUnsubscribe**®

This email was sent to bwk055@yahoo.com by [jzelt@usgs.gov](mailto:jzelt@usgs.gov).

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)™ | [Privacy Policy](#).



North American Bird Phenology Program | USGS/ Patuxent Wildlife Research Center- Beltsville Lab | BARC-East, Bldg 308, Rm 105. | 10300 Baltimore Avenue | Beltsville | MD | 20705