



NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter
February 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



- The BPP was featured in NOAA's Climate Data Modernization Program's annual video for 2011. The video will soon be linked to the BPP website and we will be sending out more information about it soon.
- It has been two years since the BPP transcription site went live on the web! Thank you all who participate and have helped build this program into what it is today.
- Jessica will be giving a presentation about the history of the BPP at the AAG annual meeting this April in Seattle, WA.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in creating a design for the BPP t-shirt. We received many stellar designs. We are still working on ways to get the shirt produced and we will keep you informed on any progress.
- We are always looking for additional help in the BPP office. If you would like to volunteer in the BPP office contact [Brandon](#).

What We're Working to Bring You

Current Progress



Current Migration Card Count:

2,096
Online Volunteers

413,218
Cards Transcribed Online

15
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](#)



- We have 40,000 matched transcriptions that will soon be released to the public through the BPP website.
- Work has continued on upgrading the transcription system to V4 with increased functions and user ability.
- We will soon be scanning all observer cards containing postal codes and years of participation.
- Michaeline Faser, BPP intern, is working on mapping her data for BLBW, HOWA, YWAR, and AMRE using ArcGis we will be uploading these maps to the website.
- Brandon's history of the BPP will soon be added to the About section under [BPP/USA-NPN](#).
- Work has begun on developing an internal proofing application, where office volunteers will help sort through "problem cards".
- We are working to keep the webpage up to date, add content, keep all links functional, and provide any information you need.



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!](#)

Volunteer of the Month

Ron Mabie



My love of nature and the great outdoors has always been a part of my life; however my passion for birding was discovered about twenty years ago, when I saw my first Long-tailed Duck. I retired from the federal government last year after 38 years of service, where I was involved in the operation and maintenance of a hydro-electric dam on the Missouri River. My retirement has allowed me to become a full-time birder and expand my participation in various citizen science programs. I enjoy birding

throughout the state of South Dakota, which has 433 recorded species and, lately, many new rarities.

I am serving my third term on the Board of Directors of the South Dakota Ornithologist's Union, have published several papers in their quarterly magazine, Bird Notes, and submit my bird observations for inclusion in their Seasonal Reports. I am on the Planning Committee for the area's first annual Bird Festival and will be assisting with the design of a birding trail this spring at a local wildlife management area. I have also led field trips for the local bird club. My concern about global warming led to my involvement with the North America Bird Phenology Program. I enjoy transcribing the migration cards, especially the Observer's Comments. Reading these historic cards gives me a great sense of awe and I pause to marvel at their observations and wonder what field guides they used.

Observer of the Month

Alexander Wetmore



Alexander Wetmore by
[Smithsonian Institution](#)
[Archives](#)

Alexander Wetmore was born at North Freedom, a town in south-central Wisconsin, on June 18, 1886. Wetmore developed an early interest in natural history and published his first paper on birds at the age of thirteen. He received a B.S. from the University of Kansas (1912) and an M.S. and Ph.D. from George Washington University (1916-1920).

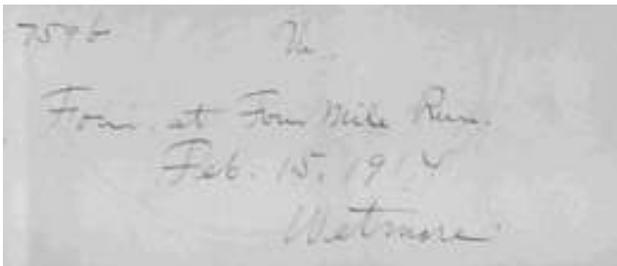
Wetmore was a tireless field worker, beginning as a field naturalist with the Biological Survey and continuing through the latter years of his life. He studied and collected in all regions of the continental United States, the Hawaiian Islands, and Alaska, but most extensively in the American Tropics. Wetmore surveyed the avifauna of Puerto Rico in 1911, and he spent 1920-1921 in South America studying bird migration between the continents.

Wetmore came to the Smithsonian in 1924 as Superintendent of the National Zoological Park after a fourteen-year career with the Bureau of Biological Survey (now U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service). In 1925, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian in charge of the United States National Museum, a post he held until his appointment as Secretary in 1945. Wetmore retired in 1952 and was made an honorary Research Associate of the Smithsonian, where he continued his study of recent and fossil birds.

Wetmore, considered the dean of American ornithologists, also worked extensively in the field of avian paleontology and as a systematic specialist. His bibliography contained over 700 entries; he described 189 species and subspecies of birds new to science; and he made enormous natural history collections for the Smithsonian. Wetmore was a member of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) for seventy years, and countless professional organizations, scientific committees, and conservation groups as well. He was awarded the AOU's Brewster Medal in 1959, and its Elliott Coues Award in 1972. The National Geographic Society conferred its Hubbard Medal on Wetmore in 1957, during his forty-year association as a trustee.

In the mid-1940s, Wetmore began a research program that would occupy his energies for the remainder of his life. Between 1946 and 1966 he took annual trips to Panama; making an exhaustive survey of the birds of the isthmus. This work culminated in the publication of his four volume magnum opus, "The Birds of Panama".

Dr. Wetmore died of congestive heart failure on December 7th 1978, following a few years' physical decline, at his home in Glen Echo, Maryland.



Thanks to Bob Hartman, a BPP participant, for contributing this biography!
If you want to read the complete biography of Alexander Wetmore please visit:
[The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History](#)

Trivia

Congratulations to last month's winner, Debra Hahn, who answered correctly that Wells W. Cooke first changed the way he signed his name in 1900 to acknowledge the beginning of a new century it first appeared on the publication "The Maintenance of Sheep".

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

Dr. Karl Christofferson had a pet Canada Goose, what was its name?

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](#)



This email was sent to bwk055@yahoo.com by 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