

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD PHENOLOGY PROGRAM



E-Newsletter
January 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



- Ali Arab, an Assistant Professor at Georgetown, has recently started a project using the BPP migration cards. More information to come as he develops his project.
- On the [V3](#) page USA and Canada were moved to the top of the country field for easy access.
- An error message no longer appears when you finish transcribing a filtered selection of cards, instead you will be asked to make a new selection.
- The [V3](#) page has an updated tally bar that shows the user's stats.
- We've had five new volunteers come into the BPP office for orientation this month. If you would like to volunteer in the BPP office contact [Brandon](#).

What We're Working to Bring You



- We have begun upgrading the transcription system to V4, to give you a cleaner and more user friendly transcription page.
- We are currently researching the history of the BPP to give a more in-depth view of the program's beginnings.
- 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

Current Progress



Current Migration Card Count:

2,075
Online Volunteers

394,931
Cards Transcribed Online

20
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](#)

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USA-NPN

Paul Suchaneck



I have enjoyed the outdoors and birds all my life as I grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota and eventually ended up getting a Master's Degree in Wildlife Science at Utah State University. I retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 2002 after spending 20 years as a Fisheries Biologist. Since then I have traveled extensively on many birding trips including visits to Australia,

Thailand, South Africa, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

When not traveling, I try to get out hiking and birding almost every day near my home in Juneau and submit my bird records to the eBird citizen science project. I also am one of the county editors for eBird, I lead bird walks for the local Audubon chapter, and have volunteered for several seabird surveys for USFWS in Alaska. Given that the burgeoning human population and climate change is pressuring bird populations in so many ways, I hope that these efforts will ultimately help in the conservation of bird populations.

Observer of the Month

Eliot Blackwelder



picture by [National Academy of Sciences](#)

Dr. Blackwelder was born in Chicago on June 4, 1880. As a boy he displayed an inquisitive and orderly mind and a love of the natural world. He developed a keen interest in entomology, assembling a collection of more than 6000 specimens of butterflies and beetles. An early enthusiasm for ornithology gained him membership in the American Ornithological Union at the age of 15, and this interest in bird life remained strong throughout his life. Even when he was confined to bed during the last few years, a bird feeder outside his window enabled him to keep contact with his "little friends".

He became a full professor at the age of 30, before obtaining his doctor's degree from Chicago in 1914. During the early stages of his career he spent most summers in field work with the U.S. Geological Survey, on assignments that took him to many parts of the western United States and to Alaska.

He wrote many papers, some of which have become classics, on the origin and evolution of desert landscapes, and demonstrated the former presence of lakes in some of the now arid basins of southeastern California and western Nevada. His meticulous glacial studies in the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada provided the basic framework for all subsequent investigations.

Outside the fields of his major work, Dr. Blackwelder's inquisitive mind led him to productive study of many other geological subjects. He was one of the first geologists to study and endorse an impact origin for the Meteor Crater in Arizona.

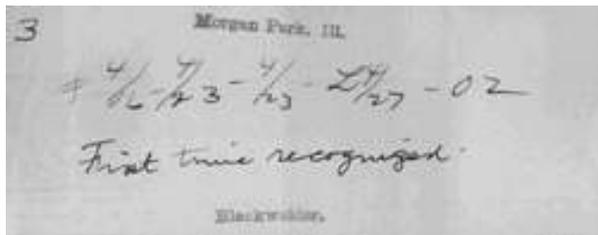
Eliot Blackwelder Died January 14, 1969 at the age of 88. He had been ill for several years with Parkinson's disease.



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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Reference:

For the entire biography provided by Stanford Historical Society please visit: histsoc.stanford.edu/pdfmem/BlackwelderE.pdf

Thanks to Bob Hartman, a BPP participant, for contributing this biography!

Trivia

Congratulations to last month's winner, Chris Eberly, who answered correctly that Bachman's Sparrow was once known as Illinois Summer Finch.

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

Wells Cooke originally signed his name W. W. Cooke. In what year did he change to Wells W. Cooke, what was the publication, and what was his reasoning for the change?

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

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