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11-15-1971

### Correspondence from Willet T. Van Velzen to Theodore Sperry, 1971

Willet T. Van Velzen

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# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
Migratory Bird Populations Station  
Laurel, Maryland 20810

November 15, 1971

Dear Cooperator:

Coverage for the 1971 Survey again showed a substantial improvement over the preceding year, especially in some of the areas where it has been difficult to obtain observers in the past. Over 1500 Survey routes were run in the United States and Canada.

The enclosed machine listing is a print-out of the data punched from your 1971 Breeding Bird Survey report. We hope that you can take a few minutes to look it over and report to us any errors that you might find. If the machine listing is correct, do not return it to us.

We extend to you our deepest thanks for the excellent support given to our program and look forward to an equally successful Survey next year.

Sincerely yours,

Willet T. Van Velzen  
Migratory Non-Game Bird Studies  
Division of Wildlife Research

Enclosure



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
Migratory Bird Populations Station  
Laurel, Maryland 20810

WRes

February 1, 1972

Dear Cooperator:

Plans are underway for the 1972 Breeding Bird Survey and we hope that you will be able to help us again this season. We would appreciate your completing the bottom portion of this letter and returning it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope at your earliest opportunity. If you are unable to run your route this summer we would appreciate any suggestions you might have for a replacement. A prompt response from you will allow us or your State coordinator ample time to arrange for additional help to cover the route, if necessary.

A total of 1515 route reports were received for the 1971 season, providing the best survey coverage yet for any year. Good progress is being made in processing the data so comparisons can be made with previous years.

We extend to you our deepest thanks for the excellent support given to our program and look forward to an equally successful Survey this year.

Migratory Non-Game Bird Studies  
Division of Wildlife Research

Enclosure

*Yes 001 Melrose  
002 Galesburg*



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
Migratory Bird Populations Station  
Laurel, Maryland 20810

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Migratory Non-Game Bird Studies  
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# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Migratory Bird Populations Station

February 1, 1972

Laurel, Maryland 20810

### BREEDING BIRD SURVEY NEWSLETTER NUMBER I

#### COVERAGE

The 1971 Survey topped all previous years both in the number of observers cooperating and the number of routes run. The observer force has risen from the 32 assisting in 1965 to 1,100 this past year; route totals have risen similarly from 60 to 1,515.

New York (90 routes) and Texas (89) substantially led all other States in the number of routes run. Complete coverage, however, was achieved by 12 States: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and Tennessee. A considerable increase in coverage was also obtained in Illinois, Maine and Oregon.

#### POPULATION TRENDS

The number of routes available for statistical analysis of population change from 1970 to 1971 is 1260, an increase of 17% over 1969-70. Of the 61 species analyzed, two registered highly significant changes in continental populations: There was a 13% decrease in the Bobwhite, with the greatest drop in the Central Region; and there was a 17% increase in the American Goldfinch, with the greatest rise in the West. There were also population increases for the entire breeding range of the Carolina Wren and Baltimore Oriole (significant at the 95% level of probability), as well as an increase in the eastern population of the Red-eyed Vireo.

In the States and Provinces east of the Mississippi River, we now have six consecutive years of coverage. Using weighted mean birds per route, linear regressions were computed for 25 of the more conspicuous species for the period 1966 through 1971. A statistically significant upward trend was noted for the Eastern Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Robin, Wood Thrush and Cardinal, and a significant downward trend for the Eastern Kingbird and Field Sparrow. The Eastern Bluebird had registered an increase in 1970 after a downward trend the three prior years; a further increase in 1971, most prominent in the Mississippi River valley (the center of the range of the species), put an end to the significant decline and furnished the first real basis for optimism in the population trend of this species.

#### CALL FOR OBSERVERS

Although coverage has increased very satisfactorily in almost every State, there are still areas that need additional help. We especially need observers in Idaho, Connecticut, Georgia and South Carolina. All interested persons are urged to contact us as soon as possible if they would like to participate in the 1972 Survey.

Willet T. Van Velzen

Migratory Non-Game Bird Studies

TELEPHONE—AREA CODE 301 776-4880 (MARYLAND EXCHANGE)

TELEGRAMS—BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
Migratory Bird Populations Station  
Laurel, Maryland 20810

October 5, 1972

Dear Cooperator:

Coverage for the 1972 Survey again showed a substantial improvement over the preceding year, especially in the Western States. Unfortunately, many Eastern States suffered from the effects of hurricane Agnes. Despite this, about 1600 Survey routes were run in the United States and Canada.

The enclosed machine listing is a print-out of the data punched from your 1972 Breeding Bird Survey report. We hope that you can take a few minutes to look it over and report to us any errors that you might find. If the machine listing is correct, do not return it to us.

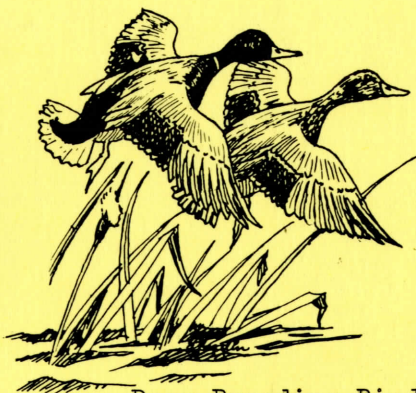
We extend to you our deepest thanks for the excellent support given to our program and look forward to an equally successful Survey next year.

Sincerely yours,

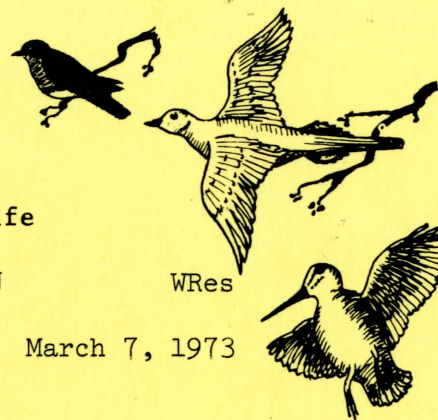
Danny Bystrak  
Migratory Non-Game Bird Studies  
Migratory Bird Research Laboratory

Enclosures





U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife  
Division of Wildlife Research  
MIGRATORY BIRD POPULATIONS STATION  
Laurel, Maryland



WRes

March 7, 1973

Dear Breeding Bird Survey Cooperator:

In recognition of your participation in the 1972 Breeding Bird Survey we are pleased to present you with the enclosed certificate.

Your continued support of this program is greatly valued and we sincerely hope that you will be able to assist again this year. Please use the bottom portion of this letter, and the enclosed post-paid envelope, to let us know whether you expect to be able to run your route(s) in 1973. Your prompt reply will allow us or your State or Provincial Coordinator ample time to provide a replacement if this should be necessary.

The results of the Survey become of greater importance as each new year of records is added. By keeping as many as possible of the same observers from year to year, the "observer bias" is kept to a minimum and the opportunity to detect smaller changes in bird populations is increased.

We bid a fond farewell to Willet T. Van Velzen, who guided the Breeding Bird Survey program through its early years and who is now leaving for the West. Danny Bystrak, who joined our staff in 1968, is in charge of the 1973 Survey.

Sincerely yours,

*Chandler S. Robbins*

Chandler S. Robbins, Chief  
Migratory Non-Game Bird Studies  
Migratory Bird and Habitat  
Research Laboratory

Enclosures

COVERAGE

The continued growth of the Breeding Bird Survey program is most heartening. In 1972, 31 States and Provinces reached (or tied) an all-time high in number of routes covered: Alberta, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Manitoba, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nova Scotia, Oregon, Rhode Island, Saskatchewan, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Yukon Territory.

California now leads the continent in number of routes covered, with 129 (a fantastic increase of 70 over the previous year). Next in sequence, in terms of number of routes completed in 1972, were Texas (93), New York (82), Pennsylvania (71), Wisconsin (66), Maryland (48), Illinois (47), Ontario (47) and Tennessee (42). Tennessee holds the continuity record with all 42 routes run in all of the past four years. Smaller States with perfect continuity records are New Hampshire with all 22 routes covered all seven years and Delaware with all 10 routes covered all eight years.

Last year in the call for observers in Newsletter No. 1 we listed four States that especially needed increased coverage. We are happy to report that coverage increased by at least three routes in each of the four States listed.

The number of routes run in 1972 was 1602, representing an increase of 6 percent from the previous year. The total number of birds counted in 1972 was 1,404,186.

POPULATION TRENDS

Our year-to-year statistical analysis of population trends is based on those routes that were covered in both of the years being compared. Accordingly, the number of routes used in the analysis for each pair of years is below the total number of routes covered in these years. Routes used in the 1971 to 1972 comparison totaled 1260. Of the 50 species analyzed to date, four registered highly significant changes in continental populations from 1971 to 1972: Bobwhite, Mourning Dove and Carolina Wren increased and Tufted Titmouse decreased. Turkey Vulture showed a highly significant increase in the Eastern Region.

Linear regressions computed from five years of data show significant upward trends in the continental population of Common Grackle, Indigo Bunting, Savannah Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Starling. Cattle Egret had a significant increase over the last four years, as did Eastern Bluebird east of the Mississippi. The greatest decreasing tendencies over the 5-year period were shown by Wood Thrush, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Yellow Warbler and Tufted Titmouse.

INCREASING COVERAGE

We have received many letters from people interested in doing more than one or two routes per year. We cannot always find a nearby route, but in some States and Provinces (Michigan, for example) a large increase in coverage is being planned for 1973. Some observers tie far-away routes in with summer vacations and others find that there are more routes available nearby than they thought. If you are willing to run additional routes, please indicate this on the enclosed yellow slip. If we cannot provide a nearby route for this season, we would at the very least have a larger pool of reserves from which to draw if other participants are unable to complete their surveys.

*Danny Bystak*

Danny Bystak

Migratory Non-Game Bird Studies

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

March 7, 1973