

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Breeding Bird Survey
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Memorandum to Cooperators

SUMMER 2008

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NEW OBSERVERS WELCOME

If this is your first year, thank you for joining the flock of thousands who make the BBS a success! Through your efforts and those of your peers, federal, state, and local conservation agencies have reliable bird population information on which to base sound conservation and management decisions. We want your BBS observer experience to be as enjoyable and meaningful as possible. In working towards this goal we provide many resources, conveniently located on our general web site, to assist you. For instance, through the “Data Entry” link on our home page, you can log into our online data entry system where you can take the methodology training, enter your bird data, and maintain stop location information for your route(s). You can also use this site to conveniently update your contact information in the future and to view and print your historical data. If you would like, we can additionally loan you bird song CD’s and other resources to help you brush up on you identification skills during the winter months. You can find our contact information both online and at the close of this Memorandum and we are happy to accommodate requests whenever we can. If you have any questions or problems regarding the BBS, please do not hesitate to contact your state coordinator or us here at the national office.

Here are a few guidelines to follow to help ensure that your first year is as productive and enjoyable as it can be:

- 1) Complete the BBS Methodology Training program and the final review.
We can not use your data if you do not.
- 2) Scout your route before the actual survey day to avoid unexpected delays.
- 3) Pay close attention to the instructions regarding survey timing and to the

- specific route start time indicated on your data form(s).
- 4) Submit your data electronically for faster feedback.
 - 5) Return your completed forms and maps in a timely manner at the end of each season.
 - 6) HAVE FUN -- take a friend, take pictures, or mentor a fledgling birder.

Thank you again for participating and we look forward to hearing about your adventures with the BBS.

REGION SPECIFIC FIELD SHEETS AVAILABLE ONCE AGAIN

In the early days of the BBS, before databases and other contemporary data handling tools were available, the survey functioned entirely via paper. All observers within a region received the same data sheet, each depicting a list of the species most likely to be encountered in their particular region. These regional sheets were later replaced with route specific scannable forms, though requests for the original style sheets continued for many years to come owing to their convenience as field tally sheets. It was a sad day when in the office we made the decision to discontinue sending old forms to those who requested them, but the species lists had grown too far out of date and the printing costs had mounted considerably.

That said we are now happy to announce that, given our recent improvements in the BBS database structure, we're now able to assist observers by providing convenient tally sheets for use in the field once again...and this time they're readily printable and up-to-date. Every BBS region is represented by a particular tally sheet and each includes up to 100 of the most commonly encountered species in that particular region. While BBS instructions require that all traditional paper-based data submissions be submitted on official scannable forms, observers who enter their data online enjoy the option of submitting a hard copy of their tally sheets in whatever 8 ½ x 11 format they choose. That said, we suggest that online users consider using these convenient forms for that purpose. To view or print field sheets for your area, please follow the "Data Entry" link (www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/dataentry/) from the BBS home page and click the "Region Specific Field Sheets" link at the bottom of the subsequent page.

NEW ROUTE PROBLEM EMAIL ADDRESS

As the degree of urbanization has steadily increased over the past decade, not surprisingly, so too has the number of route problem requests that the BBS receives annually. Safety is the highest priority in the BBS, and the staff would like to maintain a safe as well as fun experience for all observers. Due to the large volume of requests and the low BBS staffing, we have not been able to resolve all route problem requests in every year. However, we hope to rectify this in part by offering a new avenue of communication: a route problem email address that observers can direct hazard related issues to directly. The address is: bbsrouteproblems@usgs.gov.

We strongly appeal to observers to consider before submitting route problem requests that, while routes with dwindling natural habitat are certainly less appealing than those in more pristine areas, progressively urbanizing routes are critical to the survey's ability to measure the landscape level change that birds are experiencing. Even so, there are situations where routes become too challenging to hear on or suffer from other problems, such as very heavy traffic, road closures, and safety hazards. In these cases, please first consider that many problems can be solved simply by shifting a stop by the permitted .10 of a mile or by running the route as 'Sunday only', a day

when traffic is usually significantly less. In cases where significant safety hazards are imminent and immediate, please cease sampling at that location and call the BBS office directly (301-497-5753) for an immediate route solution.

NEW BBS MAPPER FINDS AND SAVES STOP COORDINATES

The BBS office is currently beta testing a new web based mapping tool that allows observers to position their stop locations on a satellite map and automatically save their coordinates to the BBS database. While observers who wish to directly enter field collected GPS coordinates still have that option, this new tool provides an opportunity for all other BBS observers to quickly and accurately find stop coordinates from their desk-top at home. We encourage all observers, especially those who have not reported coordinates before, to make use of this tool since stop coordinate data greatly extends the usefulness of BBS data to conservation science. Observers can access the mapping tool simply by logging into the online system using the same steps as for online bird data entry (visit www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/ then select the “Data Entry” link). Once logged in, visit the route list page and follow the stop coordinate “update” link for each route to the mapping tool icon. Before using the system, please recall that stop movements of up to 1/10 of a mile needn’t be reported to the BBS office, however, we do ask that observers notify us (via comment form or the ‘Route Problem’ email address listed above) when stop changes exceed this distance. That said, once you’ve established and verified your stop locations using the mapper, please forgo the urge to micro-move your points in the application from year-to-year to reflect minor location changes (e.g., parking across the street to accommodate construction interference, etc.).

TWO WAYS TO VIEW VACANT ROUTES IN YOUR STATE

For years the BBS has provided a series of web based static state maps displaying active and discontinued routes and the state’s current route vacancies. These maps serve their purpose well, however, they’re also hand drawn, and that makes updating them an infrequent and time intensive step. Additionally, the level of detail they display leaves much to be desired for any observer who’s looking at evaluating the road time involved in traveling to a potential new route assignment. Using the technology behind our new coordinates mapping tool, we now offer a new ‘interactive’ option for viewing the location and status of active routes. The new map viewer resides in the same location as the original: from the BBS home page follow the “Vacant Routes” link and then select “Interactive Maps”. At first a North America map appears with all vacant routes displayed in green. Users then select their area of interest using the country and state list appearing on the left side of the map. All routes within the selected state then appear; with pink icons marking assigned routes and green icons marking vacant ones. A simple click on an icon then reveals the route name and five digit number as well as a link to the route’s species list.

NEWLY PUBLISHED AND AVAILABLE: BBS SUMMARY, 1993-2003

Data and trends from the North American Breeding Bird Survey are periodically summarized for publication in the Institute for Bird Population’s peer reviewed journal, “Bird Populations”. BBS data from 1999-2003 were used to estimate continental and regional changes in bird populations from that 5-yr period and in a 2-yr increment, 2002-2003. These short-term changes were placed in the context of population trends estimated over the 1966-2003 interval. During

1999-2003, 41% of all species exhibited positive trends over the entire survey area, while 64% exhibited positive change in the 2002-2003 increment. The continental and regional percentages of species with positive trends were also analyzed for 12 groups, each comprised of species sharing similar life-history traits. Survey-wide for the entire survey period, grassland birds exhibited the lowest percentage of increasing species (14%), with their sharpest declines occurring in the West during 1999-2003 (10% increasing). During 1999-2003, short distance migrants experienced significant declines in all regions, where numbers of species with increasing trends ranged from 22% - 34%. Most species fared well during the 2002-2003 increment, with 64% ($P < 0.05$) increasing survey-wide. This was primarily a result of increases in the Central and Western BBS regions where 21 of 24 species groups exhibited significant increases in the number of species with positive trends. A complete pdf version of the entire paper is available via the “What’s New” link on the BBS web page.

RECENT MEETINGS & PLANNING

- 1) North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, PIF/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group Meeting – *Phoenix, AZ – March 26, 2008.*
 - Keith Pardieck presented an update on the status and future directions of the BBS.
- 2) Tennessee Ornithological Society Meeting – *Memphis, Tennessee – April 25-27, 2008.*
 - Dave Ziolkowski presented the keynote address describing the BBS program, its history in Tennessee, and the bird trends that have been revealed in the state.
- 3) Sonoran Joint Venture Technical Committee Meeting – *Sonora, Mx – April 30–May 2, 2008.*
 - Keith Pardieck, Humberto Berlanga, and Vicente Rodriguez conducted a BBS implementation and recruitment workshop for potential Mexican BBS participants in northwestern Mexico. Currently there are over 300 new BBS routes in northern Mexico.

BIRD DETECTABILITY STUDY IN FULL SWING

Population studies, similar to all scientific pursuits beyond controlled laboratory settings, face difficult challenges when honing the balance between working across species at wide geographic scales and accounting for myriad variables that make the real world “messy”. The BBS is certainly no exception to these challenges and much recent discussion has focused particularly on the topic of ‘species detectability’ (wherein, for example, one species might remain easily detected as road noise increases while others do not). To address these concerns, researchers from North Carolina State University, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, are conducting a study in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic states to evaluate the effectiveness of various detectability sampling strategies, especially on forested or mostly forested routes. The study involves a simple change to traditional Breeding Bird Survey protocols such that: a) either two volunteers run the same route simultaneously or b) one volunteer visits the same route multiple times. While the decision to sample your route using one of these modified protocols is entirely voluntary, we do hope that many observers will take advantage of the opportunity to play a role in emerging science in the BBS. If you are interested in participating or have further questions please contact:

Jason Riddle, NCSU Department of Zoology (jdriddle@unity.ncsu.edu, 919-513-0506)

COORDINATORS NEEDED

The BBS is currently seeking a Delaware State coordinator. Having just 10 routes in a region with some of the mid-Atlantic's most dedicated and enthusiastic birders, Delaware represents a great opportunity for someone looking to contribute to the birding community in a new role. We are also seeking suggestions for a new co-coordinator for northern and western areas of New York who will lend assistance to Charlie Smith, who has been single-handedly managing all of New York for many years. A complete list of current state coordinators and their contact information is available from the BBS web page via the "Contact Us" link.

TOP 2 MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS OF 2007

I Am Not Able To Add New Species When Entering Data Online – Is The System Working?

In a nutshell, yes. The appearance that nothing is happening during the add species process is a key indicator that a pop-up blocker is enabled on your computer. Ordinarily, after clicking the "Add Species" button at the bottom of the page, a yellow highlighted row appears requesting that you "Type the name of the species and click 'Search' below". This is where the problem can occur since, in order to ensure that everyone uses the same species names, we must retrieve the official name from the database. In our system the matching name(s) are displayed in a pop-up window for your confirmation. You can easily make an exemption for BBS pages by following either of the following 2 steps. In newer versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer, a blocked pop-up appears as a light tan bar across the top of the page. Clicking this produces a drop-down from which you can select "Always allow pop-ups from this site". Another option is to go directly to the Tools menu at the top of your web browser, select "Pop-up blocker", and then select "Always allow pop-ups from this site". On a related note, answering "yes" to the 'did you have an assistant' question will also call up a pop-up that allows you to input your assistant's name.

Is It Possible To Make The Online Data Entry Pages Match The Scan Forms Exactly?

A great question and one that really strikes at the kind of thought provoking trade-offs that we're often presented with here in the office. The scan forms are constrained by printing and mailing costs so we limit the number of species there to just the 65 most abundant and numerous ones recently recorded on the route (leaving 9 empty spaces for write-ins). However the online system is free of those constraints, leaving us with a judgment call as to which is the lesser of two evils: the potentially increased vigilance needed when transcribing between unlike forms, or, the inconvenience of having to re-add additional species annually. On routes that average a consistent 65 or fewer species every year, the former would be a greater concern. However, for the others, which includes a good portion of BBS routes, the time saved in species additions is appreciable. For now, the latter wins out - but we hope to be able to offer online data entry users a choice of 'complete' or 'form limited' species lists in future years.

2007 ROUTE COVERAGE

Our thanks to everyone who participated in the 2007 BBS season! Data for 2929 routes have been received by the national office so far. While the numbers are not exact (a small percentage of 2007 data has yet to arrive), Table 1 below provides a good indication of how route coverage in each state shaped up. Seventeen states experienced relative increases in route coverage with

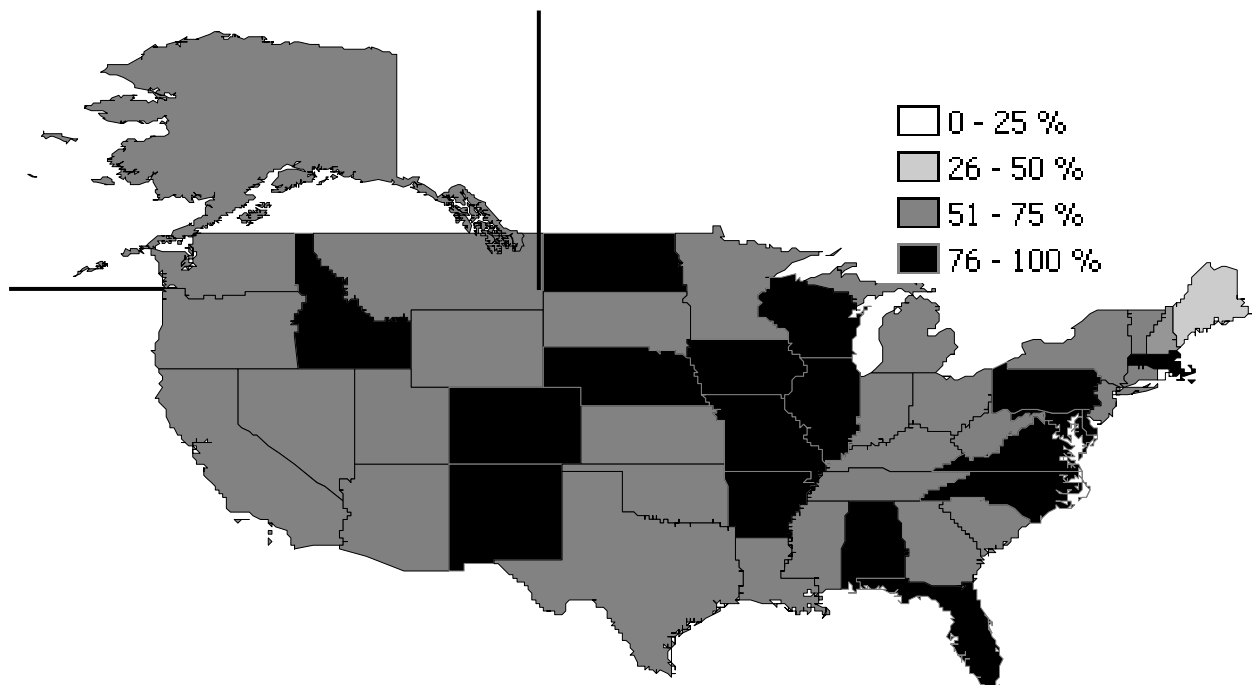
Alabama, Iowa, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Virginia earning a leg up to the 76-100% bracket and Mississippi a bounding leap to the 51-75% bracket. As alluded to, Mississippi's increase was especially noteworthy given that observers picked up 14 more routes in 2007 than in the preceding year – a near doubling of the state's coverage! This accomplishment is even more impressive considering that 2007 was Dan Twedt's first year as the state's coordinator. Not to be overshadowed by the success of its western neighbor, with second year coordinator Eric Soehren at the helm, Alabama also experienced a considerable increase with 11 additional routes covered.

Three states, Kentucky, Michigan, and Louisiana, maintained consistent growth over the last two years. This is a task that's more difficult than it may appear at first considering that the vagaries of confounding weather and unforeseen time conflicts make it such that observers there were especially persistent about finding ways to cover routes and, when that wasn't possible, coordinators quickly filled vacancies. Special recognition is also due for the observers and coordinators in Delaware, Missouri, Idaho, and New Mexico for their excellent efforts in again achieving 90% or greater coverage in their respective states. Sandy Williams and the observers in NM continue to set the bar high with a repeat performance at 100% coverage – go team go!

Twelve states experienced a coverage loss of more than five routes in 2007. Check and see if your state was one of them by comparing the "sampled in" columns from 2006 and 2007 in Table 1. Eight states dropped from their previous benchmarks in the 76-100% coverage bracket to the next lower 51-75% bracket. Maine and Rhode Island are still in special need of additional observer assistance for their sampling effort. Fewer than 50% of routes in those states were covered in 2007 (see figure 1 below) leaving plenty of room for qualified observers wishing to make a difference. Observers are also sorely needed in California, Wyoming, and Alaska where coverage levels are just a hair above 50%. If you nest in any of these states, or one of the states experiencing reduced coverage, please encourage your qualified birder friends to migrate over to your state coordinator to lend a wing with the BBS. As always, coordinator contact information is conveniently located on our web site.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER - Do you have BBS data from previous years that were never sent in? Remember, it is never too late. Whether they are from last year or a decade ago, we can still use them. While we don't wish to promote late data submission, don't throw them out just because they are old; send them to us!

Figure 1. 2007 U.S. BBS Route Coverage. Percentage of available routes sampled in 2007 by state. Lighter coloration indicates a greater number of vacant routes and the need for more participants.



PARTICIPANT AWARDS

With the completion of the 2007 BBS season, 135 participants have earned the following BBS awards:

Recipients appear in alphabetical order grouped by award category

10-years (Commemorative lapel pin) — 72 recipients:

Jennifer Adams, Daniel Blankenship, Arlene Blumton, Paul Bowman, Jr., Patricia Braden, Pete Bradley, Lori Brummer, Ken Brunson, Celia Cook, Kenneth Cox, Virginia Cronenberger, Randall Downer, John Fedak, Timothy Fennell, Howard Ferguson, Janet George, Randy Ghormley, Greg Gremaud, Roger Grimshaw, Don Haley, Robert Henry, Pablo Harrera, Wilbur Hershberger, Dean Hill, Roger Hoffman, William Hunley, Dan Jones, William Kaempfer, Claudia Keichum, Evelyn Kirkwood, Dennis Kirschbaum, Geoffrey Lebaron, Wayne Meyer, Barbara Muenchau, Dan Mulhern, Thomas Nagel, Scott Page, Donald Paseka, Melanie Pavlas, Mary Petersen, Richard Rasmussen, Robert Reed, Julia Reeves, Robert Riggs, David Roemer, David Rosgen, Charles Sontag, Lynn Stafford, John Stanton, Leslie Stewart, George Stocker, Rebecca Suomala, David Swaye, Lee Taylor, Michael Todd, Dan Twedt, Patrick Underwood, Melinda Welton, Joseph Zygala, Else Van Erp, Ann Bonnell, Marilyn Colyer, Jim Fregonara, Carol Guba, Paul Hamel, Tom Harrington, Terri Jacobson, Julie Lundsted, Donna Lusthoff, William Pulliam, Elizabeth Rogers, Bruce Webb

20-years (Commemorative key chain) — 29 recipients:

Steven Bailey, John Berry, Deane Bjerke, Barbara Butler, Stephen Compton, Robert Daly, Joseph Didomenico, Robert Doster, Mary Gustafson, John Heiser, Lynda Herremans, Wendy Howes, Kim Kuska, Daniel Larson, Jean Legge, Ronald Maertz, Everett Marshall, Steven McKee, Lynn Moseley, Joseph Neal, Grace Nutting, Christopher Rustay, Chris Schumacher, Gregory Scott, Shelley Steva, Linda Whitesel, William McAllister, Thomas Schultz, William Wagner

30-years (BBS cap) — 16 recipients:

Ronald Braun, Charles Dorchester, Todd Engstrom, Ron Harden, Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Jeri Langham, Susan Lower, Timothy Manolis, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Lee Pfannmuller, Michael Robbins, John Shackford, William Yutzy, Terry Moore, Philip Shelton, Anthony Futcher

40-years (BBS binocular strap) — 5 recipients:

Merrill Frydendall, John Fussell, David Holmes, Robert Janssen, John Kaspar

50 Routes sampled (autographed *Birds of North America* guide) — 13 recipients:

Elizabeth Brooks, Douglas Bassett, James Campbell, Troy Corman, Thelma Dalmas, Richard Davis, Todd Engstrom, Lawrence Gardella, Kathryn Hicks, Willaim Howe, Randy Hill, Stephen Ross, Terry Rich

Years-of-service calculations are based on the actual number of years that observers returned data for one or more of their assigned BBS routes. While we value and appreciate contributions made by assistants on routes, we are unfortunately unable to perform such calculations for them given

the limitations of our strictly relational database based on observer numbers. If you work with an assistant that has participated in the BBS for any of the award time periods above and feel that they should be recognized for their service, please contact us in writing; include your assistant's name and address in the correspondence and we will gladly commend them for their outstanding service as well.

Congratulations to all and thank you again for your commitment to the BBS!

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

A true sign of the times, we received many comments from observers in 2007 regarding either newly erected wind farms or plans for those soon to come. Mary Beth Dillon noted in particular a large wind farm near the end of her Grover, Colorado route describing an escarpment there as, "full of turbines and...visible from a long distance". Also in Colorado, Janet George made note of a very large wind farm that's due to be erected along her Limon route. A note from Bill Howe on the Pastura route in New Mexico well captured the high visibility and rate at which wind-turbine arrays are appearing in the landscape. Bill noted that, "89+ giant turbines are visible for the entire length of the route. They were not there last year!" Chester Ogan on the Rio Dell route in California described the wind farm prospecting activities he has seen in his area. His sense of impending change was mirrored in comment submissions from folks in mountainous areas all across the states.

Not all notes of change pertained to the landscape though – we always enjoy hearing about encounters with species that observers have never seen before. Such was the case with Gary Lester who expressed great thrill and excitement in seeing his first ever Badger while running his Honeydew, California route. Clearly, the feeling wasn't mutual though as Gary remarked that, "the badger took great offense that I disrupted its early morning routine and was aggressively defending the sett with much dust a-flying, bared teeth and bluff charges". While Gary isn't the first person who's stood his ground for the BBS in the face of a snarling Badger, he is the first person we can recall having accurately referred to the badger's lair as a sett! Jeffrey Phippen also had good luck with Mustelids (the badger, weasel, and ferret family) this year when, while in the midst of a count on his Osmond, North Carolina route, he spotted a Long-tailed Weasel zip across the road in front of him. Another great road crossing sighting was made by David Smith who spotted a Bobcat on his Piney Grove, Maryland route the day before the run. Renee Baade commented on a similar experience while running her Danbury, Connecticut route. Though not a terribly unusual cat to see in many areas of the west, sightings like these are few and far between in most of the east. Richard Youel's Bobcat sighting on the Moses Coulee, Washington route included more than just a sighting as Richard described, "sustained caterwauling coming from high on the side of the enormous basalt cliff face before us. There must have been two of them but we spotted only one bobcat stalking off on a narrow ledge. It was amazingly loud and made the hair stand up on your neck".

Members of the Dog family (i.e., Canids) are usually well represented in our list of annual field notes and this year was no exception. Lisa Edwards was lucky enough to come across a Swift Fox family near the end of her Boyero, CO route. Amber Roth eloquently shared a story involving a Red Fox and a serious case of mange - a plight both "pathetic and endearing at the same time". Amber wrote that the fox spent, "most of the 3 minute survey period rolling, rubbing, and squirming around on the sun-warmed section of black-top road about 50 feet behind

our car. Apparently the warm, rough surface provided some itching relief that outweighed any fear of us". Red Fox are often stricken by the "Sarcoptic" or "Canine" Mange caused by the small mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*. Coyotes are well known for their comical antics and Janet Ruth, on the Counselor, New Mexico route, noted a particularly hilarious one that seemed contented by barking/yipping into a canyon alcove in response to its own echo. Terry Toppin's word, "magical", typifies how we most often see wolf sightings described. On the Ninemile, Montana route Terry described the great commitment it took to move-on with the survey after finding, to much surprise, a wolf howling from a ridge-top above, with others responding in the distance (Thanks Terry, we appreciate the sacrifice!). Lynn Verlanic may have had an even bigger surprise though when, after quietly observing birds at a stop on her Saint Regis, Montana route, she turned around to see that a Black Wolf was observing her from its own point further up the road. Black Bear sightings are frequent in the west and areas in the eastern mountains, but Stuart Stewart sent in a particularly neat one this year. Stuart commented that on his Dolores River, Colorado route he and his assistant, "sometimes see blue grouse and once saw a black bear, but this year we interrupted a black bear stalking a blue grouse. He was only a few feet from the grouse as we came around the bend. We counted the grouse as he hid up on the top of a spruce tree, lucky devil." This just underscores the sentiment John Stanton shared with us after having watched a Black Bear on his Mattamuskeet, North Carolina route this year. John said, "I can't think of a better way to spend my morning then counting birds and observing wildlife!"...a sentiment we here in the office heartily appreciate.

Not to be overlooked, observer stories about birds were also plentiful in 2007. The number of observers annually who spot active nests near their stops is impressive. For instance, just a few of the cavity nests spotted this year included a Great-crested Flycatcher by Bill Scheible on his Lafayette Iowa route, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by Barbara Butler on her Newcomb, NY route, and a Lucy's Warbler by Larry Tripp on his Newcastle, Utah route. Jens Munthe spotted a nest that's often detected by odor first and later by sight – a Turkey Vulture 2/3 of the way up a vertical cliff on a ledge that previously held a Peregrine Falcon nest. By the sounds of Hart Schwartz's description from his Vicks Peak route in New Mexico, it would have been hard for anyone not to have found the Western Tanager nest at one of his stops this year. Hart pulled up to find a Hepatic Tanager harassing a pair of nesting Western Tanagers and commented that, "all three birds engaged in chases and face-offs within the nesting tree and nearby trees, and this went on for quite some time and was still going on upon my return, after finishing the route, an hour and a half later". Not directly related to nesting but at least as noisy as in Hart's story, Kevin Spencer watched a singing Northern Pygmy Owl as it advanced in his direction on his Paunina, Oregon route. Kevin described the moment: "as it approached, numerous chickadees, nuthatches, and others went right along with it as it flew across the road. Needless to say, the number of birds for that stop was unusually high".

Several stories of near bird/car misses came in this year too. Maggie Jewett's was probably the least nail-biting but was easily one of the most interesting; an adult Canada Warbler flew in when she tried to move its "tiny fledgling" off the road during her run of the Wanakena, New York route. It sounds like Jarvis Hudson experienced a real heart-pounding moment on his Wards Corner, New York route when, while driving at near 50 miles per hour, a Pileated Woodpecker cut across the road at eye level narrowly missing his car by just 2 meters! Another observer reported an ironic twist of fate that didn't turn out so well for all involved. While counting at a stop with waist-high grasses and wildflowers, a female Dickcissel was spotted winging a path across the road several times, narrowly missing cars on each pass. The observer noted, "well I finished my count and was heading back when that Dickcissel flew right into my vehicle, even as

I was looking for her. It was a sad note to an otherwise good birding morning”. Rest assured, we know the feeling and most of us who have spent any amount of time on the road can commiserate.

And finally, we end with a follow-up from last year’s BBS memo that may be of interest to some. Many folks found Thom Hall of Colorado’s note strangely interesting and commended his decision to call the police (you may recall, Tom was flagged down by a somewhat rowdy drunk man who had clearly been in a bar brawl). You will be happy to learn then that in 2007 Thom’s experience on the route was, “quite quiet. In fact not a single moving car was encountered during the survey (two just after the final stop) and only one camper was seen. It was very peaceful”. This begs the question, “is there such a thing as earned BBS karma”?

P.s. - Ryan Tomazin noted from his Pleasant Grove, Pennsylvania route this year: “it took 37 stops to get my first red-eyed vireo. That must be some kind of record or something. I only had 3 altogether”. For next year, this sounds like the place we might start to get a handle on that karma question...Ryan, 2008 may be a busy Vireo year for you!

Thanks to all those who submitted notes from the 2007 field this year. As always, we wish we could publish them all and we look forward to your stories in 2008!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Besides the thousands of you in the field, we would also like to thank Tiffanie Powell-Kommeren, Alan Hedin, Jessica Hopkins, Alison Huyett, and Allison Sussman for their outstanding help in the BBS office during the 2007 season.

Good luck & good birding in 2008!

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