

American Birds

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American Birds

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AMERICAN BIRDS DEADLINES FOR 1978

Reports due Regional Editors

Season	Deadline
Winter December 1 - February 28	March 15, 1978
Spring Migration March 1 - May 31	June 15, 1978
Nesting Season June 1 - July 31	August 15, 1978
Autumn Migration August 1 - November 30	December 15, 1978

Other Deadlines

Winter Bird-Population Studies due Editor Ronald A. Ryder	June 15, 1978
Photo salon entries due American Birds	July 15, 1978
Breeding Bird Censuses due Editor Willet T. Van Velzen	September 1, 1978
Christmas Bird Count period Applications for new counts, changes of compilers Count Forms due American Birds	December 16, 1978 - Jan. 1, 1979 November 1, 1978. January 15, 1979
Work in Progress, Announcements	6 weeks prior to issue date
Blue List Ballots due Regional Editors	September 15, 1978

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Fig. 1. Common Redpoll



Fig. 2. Hoary Redpoll

Comparison of the bills of these two birds reveals the "... more conical bill lending a 'pushed-in' look to the [Hoary's] face..." discussed by Paxton on page 330.



Fig. 3. Common Redpoll



Fig. 4. Hoary Redpoll

Redpolls, Rye, N.Y., Feb. 25 - Mar. 31, 1978 (photographed Mar. 16). Photos/ Harry N. Darrow.

Cooperator's Form

The Blue List for 1979

Each year *American Birds* publishes a list of species of birds which appear to be declining in number, either in species range proportions or regionally. Birds considered eligible for the Blue List are those apparently involved in non-cyclical population changes, but which have not reached the endangered status. In previous years we've termed it an "early warning list," for its purpose was to alert the scientific, governmental, and birding public to possible causes for alarm, present or future.

Although the Blue List has been much quoted, used in Environmental Impact Statements, and is probably the inspiration for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list of threatened species, it has a glaring weakness. There simply has not been a broad enough input base from the field; not a few of the designations to, or deletions from, the list, are based on viewpoints from too few respondents to make them unimpeachable. Although our response in recent years represents the views of several hundred active observers from coast to coast, this response represents the views of less than 1% of our far-flung network of observing contributors.

This year we want to attempt to reach and elicit opinions from a far greater cross-section of our readership. In the past, selected editors and contributors received blue sheets to be completed and returned. This year, the "blue sheet" is the reverse side of this page. You are invited to contribute your knowledge to the Blue List for 1979, *with one reservation*. We must restrict our input to information supplied by persons of experience. Obviously, if you have been birding only two, five, or seven years, you cannot, through first-hand knowledge, know which species have suffered declines over the last twenty or more years. For this reason, we solicit returns from those observers only who have at least ten years' of comparative knowledge in one particular area or region. Obviously, the more years you have birded your area, the more valuable your ballot.

There is one other change this year. Janet Witzeman, our Southwest Regional co-editor, suggested a new definition for Blue List birds, which we are adopting *verbatim*. Here it is:

"The Blue List would be more accurate, more meaningful, and more useful if the definition were changed to read: 1. those species that may or may not be declining now, but may be in jeopardy in the foreseeable future; 2. those species that occur in such small numbers that their status should be monitored; and 3. those species for which there is no scientific data to determine whether or not they are declining, but there is definite concern for the species." To which we add our original criterion: 4. those species which give definite evidence of non-cyclical declines in all or part of their ranges.

This sheet has been designed to allow removal without damage to the contents of this issue. Please use the opposite side of this page for your ballot, attaching additional pages when necessary. DO NOT mail them to *American Birds*, *but to the Regional Editor for your Region*.

The deadline for receipt of these ballots is September 15, 1978.

The Blue List Ballot — 1978 — for 1979

The following species were officially Blue Listed in the most recent (1978) list. If you agree with the listing, leave the name *untouched*. If you disagree, and wish to see the species deleted, *circle* the species name. If you have no opinion, or the species does not occur in your region, *draw a line* completely through the species name. Do not vote for species not normally in your region.

SECTION I.

Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Reddish Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Wood Stork, White-faced Ibis, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Canvasback, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Harris' Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Caracara, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, American Kestrel, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sage Grouse, King Rail, American Oystercatcher, Piping Plover, Snowy Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Common Tern, Least Tern, Black Tern, Common Puffin, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Lewis' Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Bewick's Wren, Florida Scrub Jay, Eastern Bluebird, Western Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Dickcissel, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Bachman's Sparrow.

SECTION II.

Species you believe should be added to the list:

Species	Reason number (1 - 4, see instructions)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

SECTION III.

Area and region reported on: _____

Number of years worked _____ (minimum 10)

Signed _____

Address _____

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Thank you for your assistance.**

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PUBLICATIONS: *The Flyer-NHBC* is published monthly, excluding July. The annual membership fee is \$3.50 a year.

FIELD TRIPS: Bird outings are scheduled about once a month in July and August. Favorite areas include Big Hill Park, the Lima Bog with nesting Black-throated Green, Blue Jay, Flycatchers, Lake Kegonsa, and the Sugar River. Sugar River Forest, Marsh.

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