

Bird sound publication in North America: An update

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This paper reviews the latest records and cassettes of bird sound published in North America, and gives other news, additions and corrections. It thus updates Boswall and Couzens (1982) and Boswall (1983).

Additional references to the early history of bird voice recording in the United States are Allen (1941), Brand (1931), Dacy (1932) and Day (1934), to which my attention was kindly drawn by M.P. Keane.

It has recently come to light that the very first Afrotropical bird recordings were not made in 1950 (Boswall 1983, p. 800, col. 3), but in 1929 by Rudyerd Boulton in Nyasaland (now Malawi). Boulton was a member of the Strauss Central African Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History. He used an Edison wax cylinder and a spring-driven phonograph, but he says (1969, in a personal communication to the British Library of Wildlife Sounds) "not very successfully." In 1934 he worked in Senegal, Sudan and Nigeria using custom-built aluminum disc equipment provided to Laura Boulton by the American Philosophic Society. The emphasis was on recording native music but some recordings of birds were made.

New details

133. Borrer, D.J. and W.W.H. Gunn. 1985. *Songs of the Warblers of North America*. Three 30 cm 45 (sic) rpm discs or two cassettes and 50 pp. booklet. Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. \$34.95. 57 species.

134. With the death in October 1984 of Dr. W.W.H. Gunn, the ongoing preparation of the work, *Sounds of Birds of North America: Shorebirds*, is having to be rethought.

135. Gulledge, J.L. Coordinator. 1983. *A Field Guide to the Bird Songs of Eastern and Central North America*. Second edition. Two 30 cm 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm discs or two cassettes. Houghton Mifflin, 2 Park Street, Boston, Mass. 02108. \$19.95. 250 species.

Note: a completely revised edition of 46.

136. Gulledge, J.L. Coordinator. 1982. *Guide to Bird Sounds*. Four 23 cm floppy 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm discs. National Geographic Society, Washington D.C.

179 species.

Note: sold only as one item in a four-part package, "The Wonder of Birds," comprising hardback book, limpback field guide and wall chart, \$34.95. But it will be independently published by the Laboratory of Ornithology on "proper" LPs hopefully in late 1985.

136a. Williams, L.E. and D. Austin. 1982. *Real Turkeys*. One cassette, DM 83004. Obtainable from Real Turkeys, 2201 SE 41 Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32601. \$7.95 plus p. & p. 1 species.

(See Williams, 1984, for highly detailed treatment of species' vocabulary.)

136b. Williams, L.E. and D. Austin. 1983. *Real Turkeys II*. One cassette, DM 84007. Details as for 136a. 1 species.

136c. Sander, T.G. 1983. *Common Breeding Bird Songs in the San Francisco Bay Area*, Volume 1. One cassette. T.G. Sander, P.O. Box 617, In-

verness, Calif. 94937. \$10.95. 35 species.

136d. Hall, K.J. and P.R.B. Ward. 1983. *Nature Sounds of the Northwest: no. 1 Birds of the Dry Interior* One 30 cm 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm disc, TRC 928 Total Recording Co., Vancouver, B.C., Canada. \$8.50. 55 species.

136e. Gulledge, J.L. 1983. *A May Morning in Central New York/Songs of Five North American Thrushes/The Two Voices of the Wood Thrush*. One 15 cm 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm flimsy disc, no number. Accompanies article 'Sounds We Call Songs' by same author in *Living Bird Quarterly* 2(2):4-8. Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. 22 species plus 1 mammal.

136f. Borrer, D.J. 1984. *Common Bird Songs*. One cassette and 64 pp booklet. Dover Publications Inc., New York. \$7.95.

60 species.

Note: cassette version of 81.

136g. Borrer, D.J. 1984. *Songs of Eastern Birds*. One cassette and 64 pp. booklet. Dover Publications Inc., New York. \$7.95.

60 species.

Note: cassette version of 96.

136h. Borrer, D.J. 1984. *Songs of Western Birds*. One cassette and 64 pp. booklet. Dover Publications Inc., New York. \$7.95.

60 species.

Note: cassette version of 97.

136i. Hardy, J.W. (Compiler). 1984. *Voices of the New World Jays, Crows and their Allies: Family Corvidae*. One 30 cm 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ rpm disc, ARA9. ARA Records, J.W. and C K Hardy, 1615 NW 14 Ave., Gainesville, Florida 32611. \$9.95.

47 species (including Neotropical species).



Jerry and Norma Stillwell are the only two pioneer North American recordists of bird voice whose photo could not be found in time for the original 1982 paper. This one has been kindly provided by Ralph R. Moldenhauer, and shows the couple, probably in 1953.

136j. Barker, N.W. and F.B. Barker. 1984. *Bird Songs of Southeastern Minnesota*. Three cassettes and book. Tom Jones Recordings, Rochester, Minnesota 55901. \$22.50 the set of three and book. 109 species.

Note: a cassette version of 67a (Boswall 1983, p. 800, col. 3).

136k. Jellis, R. (Editor). 1984. *Bird Sounds and their Meaning*. One cassette. Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. \$10.95.

Note: an American cassette version of 110 which complements American paperback re-issue of the book of the same title by Cornell University Press, 1984, \$14.95.

Corrections:

The phrase "and was taken by Russ Kinne" refers to the photograph of the Meadowlark (Boswall 1983, p. 800, col. 1).

I am advised by M.P. Keane that no. 1 in the discography was privately

and not commercially published in 1931. Thus no. 3 (1933) becomes the earliest North American commercially issued example of bird sound recordings.

To the list of North American institutionalized bird sound collections please add:

The Library of Natural Sounds, Oakland Museum of Natural Sciences, One Thousand Oak Street, Oakland, California 94607, telephone: (415) 273-3401, holds recordings of at least 120 North American species, and also many of insects, and some of amphibians, reptiles and mammals. It is curated by Paul Matzner.

The Gunn Library of Wildlife Natural Sounds, following the death of Dr. W.W.H. Gunn in October 1984, is being run, *pro tem*, by Dr. Gunn's widow. It is to be deposited at Cornell University's Library of Natural Sounds in due course. Meantime the BBC has purchased non-exclusive world rights to a major part of the collection.

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- DACY, G.H. 1932. Snare notes of wild birds. *Popular Science Monthly* 121(3):16-17 and 94.
- DAY, G.A. 1934. How the sounds of birds are recorded on film and disc. *Radio-Craft* 5(8):462-463 and 488.
- WILLIAMS, L.E. 1984. "The Voice and Vocabulary of the Wild Turkey." Wild Turkeys, same address as for cassettes—see entry 136a.

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