

THE "BLUE LIST"

No longer does a species have to approach extinction to warrant special concern, attention that may already be too late. American Birds, the field ornithological organ of the National Audubon Society, has instituted the "Blue List," a directory of species showing non-cyclic population declines or range contractions. It is hoped that this advisory will encourage birders to report any sighting of a particular species -- or the lack of sightings -- to national regional compilers, in our case: Davis W. Finch, Knoll Creek Farm, Route 376, Hopewell Junction, N.Y. 12533. The "Blue List" excludes already proclaimed endangered or extremely rare species, such as the Eskimo curlew or ivory-billed woodpecker.

Here is the 1973 "Blue List" (American Birds, Vol. 26, No. 6), compiled by the editor, Robert Arbib.

THE BLUE LIST FOR 1973		
The following species or subspecies are presently giving indications that they are suffering population declines or range diminution in all or parts of their range, but are not now of sufficient rarity to be considered endangered.		
Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Am. Oystercatcher
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Piping Plover
Fork-tailed Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma furcata</i>	Snowy Plover
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Gull-billed Tern
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus auritus</i>	Least Tern
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Royal Tern
Wood Ibis	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Ancient Murrelet
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chii</i>	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	Barn Owl
Fulvous Tree Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	Burrowing Owl
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Florida Scrub Jay
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	Bewick's Wren
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Bell's Vireo
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Gray Vireo
Harris' Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	Yellow Warbler
Marsh Hawk	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Yellowthroat
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Bachman's Sparrow
Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	Other nominees, to be carefully watched, but not Blue Listed at this time, include:
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Gila Woodpecker
Pigeon Hawk	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Red-headed Woodpecker
Sparrow Hawk	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Purple Martin
Sage Grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Short-billed Marsh Wren
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarana</i>	Eastern Bluebird
		Western Bluebird
		Mountain Bluebird
		Santa Barbara Song Sparrow
		<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>
		<i>Charadrius melodus</i>
		<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
		<i>Gelochelidon nitotica</i>
		<i>Sierna albifrons</i>
		<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>
		<i>Synhiloboramphus antiquum</i>
		<i>Coccyzus americanus</i> (California)
		<i>Tyto alba</i>
		<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i>
		<i>Aphelocoma c. coerulescens</i>
		<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>
		<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
		<i>Vireo bellii</i>
		<i>Vireo vicinior</i>
		<i>Dendroica petechia</i> (California)
		<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> (California)
		<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>
		<i>Centurus uropygialis</i>
		<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
		<i>Progne subis</i>
		<i>Custoithorus platensis</i>
		<i>Sialia sialis</i>
		<i>Sialia mexicana</i>
		<i>Sialia currucoides</i>
		<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
		<i>graminea</i> (Status unknown).

Of the foregoing, the following species are at present of only local concern:

- Swainson's hawk (S. California)
- Yellow-billed cuckoo (California)
- Red-headed woodpecker (Florida)
- Bell's vireo (S. California)
- Yellow warbler (Colorado)