

The Blue List for 1978—Information Wanted

Since its inception in December, 1971, The Blue List of declining species, published in *American Birds* in the last issue of each year, has gained in stature to the point where it is constantly consulted, and referred to in countless publications and environmental impact statements. Although it is entirely voluntary and unofficial, it has gained a prestige and importance that must require of us ever-increasing caution, accuracy, and validity.

One of the valid criticisms of the Blue List has been that its ratings reflect a less-than-representative body of opinion: we simply do not hear from enough reporters whose knowledge of local bird-life is of duration enough to allow them to judge competently whether a species is declining in its abundance. It is not that there is a lack of observers with ten, twenty, thirty or more years of records, it is that our Regional Editors hear from so few of them.

This year, we would like to expand our reporting network. The 1977 list represents the views of no less than 143 observers. This year, we would like to see the number increase to 500, from all corners of the continent. With one caveat: we do not want mere impressions. If you are an infrequent observer, or one with less than five years' field experience in your area, we ask you to withhold your assistance for future years.

What we seek this year is information from observers with good, solid data on the comparative abundance of species in their areas over a period of years.

For reference, the latest Blue List was published in *American Birds*, December, 1976, pp. 1031–39. It includes both the official list and lists of those species nominated by one or more respondents, but which failed to make the list. For the 1978 list, we plan to Blue-list birds by races. If there can be any confusion about the race of your nominees, be sure to specify.

Send all nominations *not to American Birds*, but to your Regional Editor, immediately upon receipt of this issue.

The following table was omitted from Ronald M. Mitchell's article in *Am. Birds* 29:927–30, 1975, for reasons of space.

Table 3. Summary of Utah's existing cormorant population as of 1973.

Colony	No. nesting birds	Percent of state total
Springville	166	43
Bear River	94	24
New State	84	22
Geneva	30	8
Bay	12	3
Totals	386	100

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