

# The Blue List for 1984—Questionnaire

## *We want your input*

Every other year *American Birds* publishes a list of species that, in the best opinion of our reader-observers, appear to be declining in numbers, either throughout their North American ranges, or regionally. Species or races eligible for the Blue List are those apparently suffering non-cyclical population declines, but which have not reached the endangered status. In previous years we have termed it an "an early warning list," for its purpose is to alert the conservation, regulatory, and ornithological worlds to situations of concern, in time to take action.

Our Blue List has been an important feature, much quoted, and used in preparing "Threatened Species" lists by governmental agencies and Environmental Impact Statements. Its credibility is gained because it reflects the best judgment of the people who spend the most time in the field and are most widely represented around the continent. There is, however, one important improvement in its reliability we seek to make. **We want many more cooperators to report.**

This year the form has been simplified, but it will provide much useful information if it is carefully answered and returned to our editor. All we ask is that you supply whatever knowledge you may possess (**your own first-hand knowledge**), whether it be for one species or many—and return it to us by October 1, 1983.

## *Simplified instructions—read them carefully*

The removable self-mail questionnaire is the facing page. On it we ask simply that you provide your notations of the status of the 1982 (for 1981) Blue List Species (*American Birds*, March 1982, 36 (2) 126), as observed in your Reporting Region **during 1983**. Even if your 1983 observations show no or little change, please so report. If you made no report in 1982, but have noted marked changes in any **breeding** species in recent years, please report. If there are species you believe should be **added** to the Blue List, please list them. If species Blue-listed in 1982 have **increased** in 1983, please so note.

**Names.** We want to know the basis for your judgments: how many years' experience in your area you have. There is a space for this. If listing other cooperators, their experience, if known, can be inserted after their names, *i.e.*, Elliot Coues (31), Robert Ridgway (16), etc.

**Reporting Region.** This is the *American Birds* Region in which you live or primarily bird. If your "home" area includes more than one Region, list them. Give also the area on which you are reporting. Example: Northern Great Plains Region: within 100 miles of Bismarck, N.D.—or Hudson-Delaware & Middle Atlantic Regs., Washington, D.C. If you report on widely separated Regions, use a separate form for each. Photocopies OK.

**Species.** Use the identifiable name of the species as published in *American Birds*. (Most names are listed by Monroe, B. in the July issue—*AB*: 36 (4) 779). If you are reporting on one race of a species, be sure to identify which race. We will accept names such as Red-shafted Flicker or Bullock's Oriole. **DO NOT report on species not normally found in your Region.** Reports on Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Georgia would be welcome but reporting on Varied Thrush in Ohio would be meaningless. **Do not** report on species already listed as Endangered.

**1983 Status:** Check the one space for each species about which you have knowledge (not necessarily the entire list), that gives your best impression of its 1983 status. For species that seem to be increasing, we want information **ONLY** on those species listed on the 1982 (for 1981) Blue List. We solicit evidence or documentation in support of your opinions.

On the form, the column entitled STATUS has 5 spaces. These are keyed as follows: A—greatly down in numbers. B—down in numbers. C—stable. D—up in numbers. E—greatly up in numbers. If you are reporting for yourself only, simply check the appropriate space for that species. If reporting for others as well, total the "votes" for each category. See example on reverse of form. Ignore "not known" votes.

**Comments.** We welcome brief, meaningful quotes from respondents. If necessary, use more than one line on the form, or attach a page. Whenever possible, refer to supporting evidence. Example: "CBC data (on resident species) shows 45% decline in last 5 years." "No longer breeding in 6-county area surveyed (12 pairs in 1972)." Try to give known (or suspected) causes of decline, *i.e.*, increased urbanization, marsh drainage, predation, (including man's), woodcutting, ORVs, etc.

**Respondent/Compiler.** Whether you are an individual respondent or a compiler for more than one person, fill out this section of the form appropriately, including your mailing address (tel. no. optional), listing others by name only. Please list names exactly as they should be printed, if published.

**Mailing.** When you are done, fold the form in thirds so that the return address is on one outside fold with a blank on the other. If sheets are added, place them inside. Staple or tape together, add sufficient postage, and mail. The Blue List will appear in our January-February 1984 issue, **so promptness is essential.**

**Deadline for receipt is October 1, 1983**, but if you are a little late mail it anyway. We would rather have it late than never. Thank you for your cooperation. This is one place your field work pays off.