

The Blue List for 1986

James Tate, Jr.

THE BLUE LIST IS AN "EARLY warning system" for birds (*American Birds* 25:948-949). The fact that the list remains a valuable addition to our understanding of North American birds is a testimony to the importance of the concept. *American Birds* solicits opinions from the birding, academic, and wildlife management communities on how to improve the nomination, data gathering, listing, and verification processes for potential Blue List species. We believe the list is better this year and will continue to improve as we incorporate the ideas we are receiving.

Beginning March 1982, the Blue List went on a delayed publication schedule. The reasons for this radical departure from tradition were stated in 1982 (*American Birds* 36(2)126, 1982). The effects on the 1986 list, published here, have all been for the best. Although this list is titled The Blue List for 1986, readers should remember that the data for this list were gathered in the years 1984 and 1985. The pressures to report one more set of impressions during the holiday season were removed. Reports were more carefully evaluated. Inconsistencies within reporting regions were evaluated. Most of all, the Blue List more accurately reflects the opinions of the continent's most active birders who have a concern about populations and trends.

Reporting regions

Initial coverage by reporting regions was spotty at best. No reports were received from 5 areas: Northwestern Canada, Northern Rocky Mountain-Intermountains, Alaska, Hawaii, and West Indies regions. An additional 6 regions had only one respondent: Quebec, Prairie Provinces, Northern Great

Plains, South Texas, Southwest, and Northern Pacific Coast regions. All other regions had 2 or more respondents.

Discussions were held with many of the respondents to clarify discrepancies within regions. While all respondents within a region will seldom reach consensus on the status of a given species, this process was very helpful in confirming that population changes were in fact occurring.

The Blue List kept the five letter designations for reporting:

- A: greatly down in numbers
- B: down in numbers
- C: stable
- D: up in numbers
- E: greatly up in numbers

When respondents failed to use this system, their responses were converted to the letter system as faithfully as possible.

The use of Table 1 was Douglas Kibbe's suggestion and was completed by Brant M. Tate. The table reduces the amount of verbiage that has been traditional with the Blue List. A way of reporting a summary of all responses is being considered for the next Blue List. Suggestions are always welcomed.

Federal actions

Two recent publications of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S.F.&W.S.) are of great interest to respondents to the Blue List. The first of these is the publication: *List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants*. The second is obscurely titled *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of Vertebrate Wildlife; Notice of Review* (hereafter, *Review*).

The U.S.F.&W.S. published the list of *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants* (50 CFR 17.11 and 17.22)

January 1, 1986. This publication is a special reprint of the lists part of the Code of Federal Regulations which is periodically updated to reflect all published rules listing and delisting taxa under the Endangered Species Act. Copies of this list are available at no charge from the Publication Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Some species previously listed in the Blue List are now on the Endangered Species List. Two of these, Piping Plover (see notes regarding this species) and Least Tern very much need the additional protection afforded by the newly acquired Federal listing.

At the end of the *List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants* is a list of species removed from it that is not a part of the Code of Federal Regulations lists. The Mexican Duck has been removed from the *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants* list owing to an "original data error" that caused it to be listed. The Mexican Duck was Blue-listed in 1972. After that, it was on the Federal list. This bird is another part of the Mallard species complex that, like the American Black Duck, is experiencing genetic alterations owing to contact with the more ubiquitous Mallard. It is no longer considered a separate species by ornithologists. It is now considered a subspecies in which the males do not carry the bright chestnut-breasted and green-headed plumage of the Mallard. It is entirely possible that the Mexican Duck and the American Black Duck genes may someday be entirely replaced by Mallard genes throughout their ranges.

The Santa Barbara race of the Song Sparrow was formerly listed as endangered. It was never on the *Blue List* in *American Birds*. It has been removed from the Endangered and Threatened lists owing to extinction.

The *Review* was published in the Federal Register (Vol. 50, No. 181,

pages 37958–37967) September 18, 1985. The *Review* is a list of vertebrate animal taxa, native to the United States, being considered for possible addition to the *List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife*. The species in this list are placed in three categories:

Category 1. Taxa for which the U.S.F.&W.S. has substantial information on hand to support the biological appropriateness of proposing to list.

Category 2. Taxa for which the U.S.F.&W.S. has information that proposing to list is possibly appropriate.

Category 3. Taxa that were once being considered for listing as endangered or threatened, but are not now receiving that consideration.

Category 3 has three subcategories:

Category 3a. Taxa which the U.S.F.&W.S. considers to be extinct.

Category 3b. Taxa which were once thought to be distinct species or subspecies, but which have been reclassified by ornithologists.

Category 3c. Taxa which are now more abundant or widespread and are thus considered less subject to the threats that caused them to be listed as Category 2 previously.

As might be expected, many of the Blue-listed species are listed by the U.S.F.&W.S. in one or another of the categories.

Curiously, some species or subspecies that Blue List respondents universally think of as considerably down in numbers are not listed in any category. The southeastern population of the Bewick's Wren is an example of a population that is considerably down, but is not listed by the U.S.F.&W.S. in Category 2. It may be a taxonomic problem. If the species is represented by a single large population without regional subspecific differences, then it cannot be considered in trouble under the Endangered Species Act when only a part of the large population is in trouble.

Some species, e.g., Florida Scrub Jay, are listed as Category 1. Presumably the Florida Scrub Jay is a candidate for early listing. The *Review* is available from the same source just mentioned for the lists. The U.S.F.&W.S. is interested in information that could cause a taxon to have a Category change, document a threat to any listed taxon, nominate another taxon to this list, recommend critical habitat changes, point out taxonomic changes, or note errors in the existing list. Be assured that Jay

Sheppard (the principle author of the bird list), will consider all data received on these matters. Testimonials are not what he needs. Solid ideas supported by numerical data and published sources are of the most help to him. *American Birds* has offered to let the Blue List, as published in this journal, act as a conduit for suggestions for the Review List. If you want to try out your suggestions before submitting them to the U.S.F.&W.S., direct them first to James Tate, Jr., Blue List, c/o *American Birds*, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, NYC 10022. If you choose to send suggestions to the U.S.F.&W.S. as a result of this notice, send Tate and *American Birds* a copy. We do not wish to control input into these important matters in any way. You may want to talk a suggestion over with us before submitting it, however.

The Blue List is a cooperative effort of hundreds of people. While there is insufficient room to publish the names of each of them here, they can be assured, each and every one, that his and her input is appreciated—even when the finished list does not always agree with their information. A list of respondents is available upon request.

The Blue List and the list of species of Special Concern



Least Bittern. Photo/Allan D. Cruickshank/VIREO.

Western Grebe. Blue-listed 1973–1982. In 1982, it appeared to be stabilizing at low numbers. Special Concern 1986. No respondent from any region reported it as down in numbers during the last reporting period. More information on current status is requested.

1. Horned Grebe. Never before Blue-listed. Blue-listed 1986. Referring to migrant and wintering birds, four northeast regions reported this common grebe as greatly down in numbers. Most of the eastern continental breeding occurs in Quebec, from where we have no negative reports this period. Throughout the rest of its extensive range there is no apparent problem.

Reddish Egret. Blue-listed 1972, 1975–1980. Special Concern 1981–1982. Special Concern 1986. No longer of concern to respondents. U.S.F.&W.S. lists it as a Category 2 bird where it nests in Florida, Texas, Mexico, and West Indies, and where it regularly visits in

Alabama, California, Louisiana, and Mississippi. More information on current status is requested.

2. Least Bittern. Nominated in 1976, but not Blue-listed. First Blue-listed in 1979 (8th year of the list). Blue-listed 1979–1986. Widely reported as down or greatly down. Reported as extirpated from some reporting regions.

3. American Bittern. Blue-listed 1976–1986. “Tentatively added” to the Blue List in 1976. In 1977, 66% of respondents favored listing, with the mid-continental area showing decline first. The coastal areas also began seeing the decline by 1980. We are now in the midst of a continent-wide decline of the American Bittern and most other marsh dependent species.

WOOD STORK. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982. Has now been listed as endangered throughout the northern part of its range (United States of America including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina). In Mexico, Central and South America it is holding steady or increasing locally. This species will no longer appear on the Blue List.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck. Blue-listed 1972–1979. Ignored 1980, 1981. Special Concern in Southern Atlantic Coast 1982. Special Concern 1986. Listed by one respondent as down in Southern Atlantic Coast, and by one respondent as greatly down in Southern Pacific Coast. Southwestern population (Arizona, California) listed as Category 2 by U.S.F.&W.S..

American Black Duck. Blue-listed 1980, 1981. Special Concern 1982, 1986. We continue to register our Special Concern about the genetic swamping and decline in numbers of this native northeasterner. Is there any way to maintain isolated refugia for the American Black Duck gene pool?

Canvasback. Blue-listed 1975–1981. Special Concern 1982, 1986. Both the Canvasback which used to be Blue-listed, and the Redhead which joined it as a species of Special Concern in 1982 are representative of the 30-year decline of most of our native waterfowl. I am not satisfied with the mere documentation of their decline. The controversy over hunting of waterfowl is merely taking energy away from the much more basic issue of habitat. A fundamental revolution is required in the way



American Bittern. Photo/Frank K. Schleicher/VIREO.



Wood Stork. Photo/Allan D. Cruickshank/VIREO.

we place our priorities when considering waterfowl and wetlands. For the sake of all wetland species, we must reverse the decline of quantity and quality of wetland habitats.

4. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Blue-listed 1972–1986. Seen in increasing numbers in migration. Remains very rare as a breeder.

5. Cooper's Hawk. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982. Blue-listed 1986. Although still a judgement call, eight reporting regions favor retention. Returned to the Blue List, with many reports of doing better in the eastern part of the continent.

Swainson's Hawk. Blue-listed 1972–1982. Special Concern 1986. Of Special Concern for lack of response this period. Listed as a Category 2 species by the U.S.F.&W.S.

Ferruginous Hawk. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982–1986. Of Special Concern for lack of response this period. Listed as a Category 2 species by the U.S.F.&W.S.

Crested Caracara. Blue-listed 1972–1979, 1981. Ignored 1980. Special Concern 1982–1986. Of Special Concern for lack of response this period. Florida population listed as a Category 2 species by the U.S.F.&W.S.

Merlin. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982–1986. Seldom reported. No good assessment can be made with the few responses we have on the species.

6. Red-shouldered Hawk. Blue-listed 1972–1986. Populations down, or stable at low numbers at best.

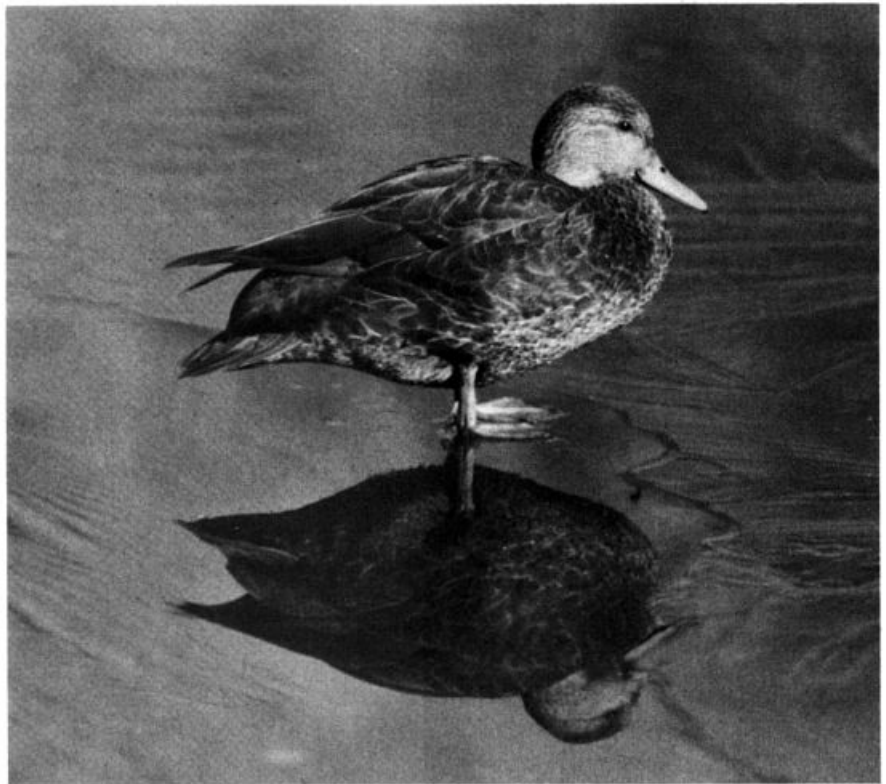
7. Northern Harrier. Blue-listed 1972–1986. Down or greatly down nearly everywhere.

Sharp-tailed Grouse. Blue-listed 1972, 1978–1982. Of Special Concern to birders and hunters.

Sage Grouse. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982–1986. Special Concern in Oregon, Washington, adjacent Canada. U.S.F.&W.S. Category 2 in same area. of local concern to birders and hunters elsewhere.

King Rail. Blue-listed 1976–1982. Special Concern 1986. Stable, or up where reported.

Clapper Rail. Blue-listed for California only 1972. Special Concern 1986. The U.S.F.&W.S. lists the mangrove dwell-



Black Duck. Photo/Allan D. Cruickshank/VIREO.



Northern Harrier. Photo/Frank K. Schleicher/VIREO.

ing Clapper Rail of Florida as Category 2. Reports from Florida on the status of this bird are requested.

8. PIPING PLOVER. Blue-listed 1973–1986. *Endangered Species* in the Great Lakes watershed of Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin and Province of Ontario. Blue-listed everywhere else.

Snowy Plover. Blue-listed 1972–1982. Special Concern 1986. The Blue List has shown historic concerns in the far west (California, Oregon, Washington). Only the Middle Pacific Coast listed it as down for this reporting period. The U.S.F.&W.S. lists the western race *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus* and the southeastern race *C. a. tenuirostris* as Category 2. In the southeast, reports do not reflect major regional population declines. Reported as down by one respondent each in Florida, Ontario, and as down to greatly down in the Southern Great Plains.

Long-billed Curlew. Blue-listed 1981, 1982. Special Concern 1986. Reported down by one respondent from Southern Great Plains. The U.S.F.&W.S. lists it as a Category 2 species throughout its rather extensive western range.

9. Upland Sandpiper. Blue-listed 1975–1986. Continues to decline in its eastern range where old-field habitats are maturing or being replaced.

10. Roseate Tern. Blue-listed 1972, 1979–1986. Inadvertently not given a Blue List number in 1982. Reported as down by one respondent in Northeastern Maritime. Other respondents report it as stable on its breeding grounds at low levels. Two respondents in Florida report it as down. The U.S.F.&W.S. lists it as a Category 1 species with substantial information to support listing.

LEAST TERN. Blue-listed 1972–1982. Both the Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum antillarum*) and the California Least Tern (*S. a. browni*) have been listed as Endangered Species. This species will no longer appear on the Blue List.

11. Black Tern. Blue-listed 1978–1986. Widely regarded as down or greatly down throughout its range. Loss of wetlands.

12. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Blue-listed 1972–1981, 1986. Special Concern



Piping Plover. Photo/Allan D. Cruickshank/VIREO.



Long-billed Curlew. Photo/Frank K. Schleicher.



Upland Sandpiper. Photo/Frank K. Schleicher.

1982. Should be Blue-listed because of western population. One respondent reports it is down in Middle Pacific Coast, one reports it is greatly down in Southern Pacific Coast. The U.S.F.&W.S. lists the western race as Category 2. Reports from eastern populations show it down or greatly down in the Appalachian Region, down (2 respondents each) in the Middlewestern Prairie, and Southern Great Plains regions.

Common Barn-Owl. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982–1986. Widely reported as down or greatly down. Of Special Concern throughout its range. Since it has been shown to respond to nest-box programs, there is no reason why we can not exert a special effort to bring it back just as we have done with bluebirds where they were down.

Eastern Screech-Owl. Blue-listed 1981. Special Concern 1982, 1986. Previously of concern in New York City, Northeast. Now reported as down in Hudson-Delaware, Southern Atlantic Coast, Appalachian, and Middlewestern Prairie regions.

Burrowing Owl. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982, 1986. Reported by one respondent as greatly down in Florida, and down in Middle Pacific Coast regions.

13. Spotted Owl. Blue-listed 1980–1986. No responses from the range of the southern race. The U.S.F.&W.S. lists it as a category 2 subspecies in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Mexico. Respondents from Northern Pacific Coast, and Middle Pacific Coast report it as greatly down and down respectively. The U.S.F.&W.S. does not list the northern subspecies in any category.

14. Short-eared Owl. Blue-listed 1976–1986. Widely reported as down, Hudson-Delaware (2), Ontario, Middlewestern Prairie, Southern Great Plains, and as greatly down Central Southern, Prairie Provinces, and Middle Pacific Coast regions.

15. Whip-poor-will. Blue-listed 1980–1981, 1986. Special Concern 1982. In 1982, the Breeding Bird Survey data convinced us that the species was stable. Personal experience in the last 3 years plus the respondents reports of widespread declines cause this species to be again placed on the Blue List.

16. Common Nighthawk. Blue-listed 1975–1986. Apparently not reported on in 1978. Special Concern in 1982. See comments on previous species.



Eastern Screech-Owl. Photo/Allan D. Cruickshank/VIREO.



Whip-poor-will. Photo/Allan D. Cruickshank/VIREO.

17. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Blue-listed 1978–1986. Widespread reports of declines. Is this decline only true of the eastern hummingbird? Is anyone seeing changes in other hummingbird populations?

Red-headed Woodpecker. Blue-listed 1972, 1976–1981. Special Concern 1982–1986. Widely reported as down or greatly down. Loss of nesting habitat. Subject to management programs which could reverse this trend.

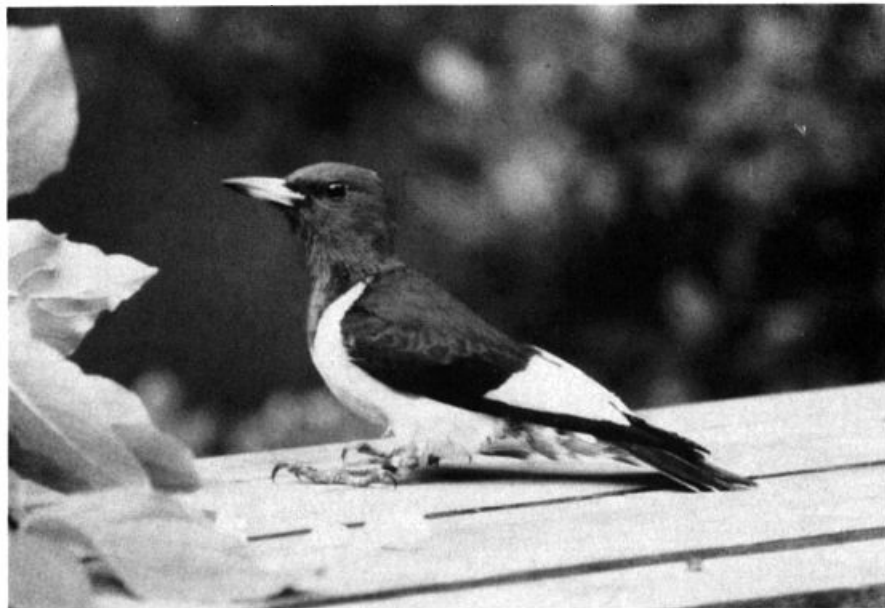
Hairy Woodpecker. Blue-listed 1975–1982. Special Concern 1986. Reported as down in Northeastern Maritime, Southern Atlantic Coast, Appalachian, Middlewestern Prairie, Central Southern, Southern Great Plains (2), and Northern Pacific Coast regions.

Eastern Phoebe. Blue-listed 1980. Special Concern 1981–1986. Reported as down in Hudson-Delaware, Southern Atlantic Coast, Ontario, Appalachian, Western Great Lakes, Central Southern, and Middlewestern Prairie. Reported greatly down in Niagara Champlain, and Middlewestern Prairie regions by one respondent each. Equal numbers reported it stable or up in the same regions.

Willow Flycatcher. Blue-listed 1980–1982. Special Concern 1986. First listed in 1980 on basis of reports of declines in Ontario, Southwest, Northern Pacific Coast, Middle Pacific Coast, Southern Pacific Coast regions. In 1981, no reports from the Pacific Coast. Declines in Southwest caused it to be continued on the Blue List. In 1982, no respondents from Middle Pacific Coast, or Southwest. Since both the Pacific Coast and the Southwest are at the edges of the range for this species, and since only one respondent in the Northern Great Plains, and Middle Pacific Coast regions reported it down, and one in the Southern Pacific Coast reported it greatly down, it has been placed on the list of Special Concern:

Purple Martin. Blue-listed 1975–1981. Special Concern 1982–1986. Reported as down in Hudson-Delaware, Appalachian, Middlewestern Prairie (3), greatly down in Southern Pacific Coast, Hudson-Delaware, Western Great Lakes. It is past time to organize a nest box and nest predator management program. This is an easily manipulated species that should not be on this list except for local concerns.

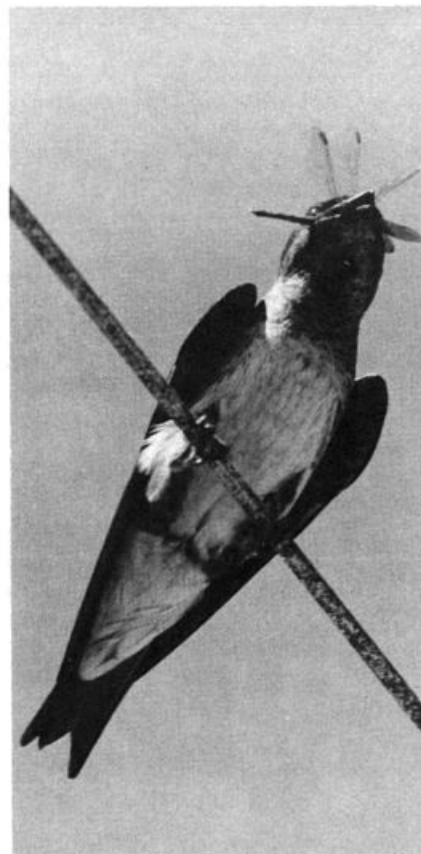
18. Scrub Jay. Florida subspecies Blue-



Red-headed Woodpecker. Photo/Phyllis Fraser.

listed 1973–1986. Listed by U.S.F.&W.S. as Category 1 subspecies. This is a candidate for early listing.

Sedge Wren. Blue-listed 1979, 1981. Special Concern 1982–1986. Reported as down in Middlewestern Prairie, and



Purple Martin. Photo/Allan D. Cruickshank/VIREO.

greatly down in Northeastern Maritime, Hudson-Delaware, Ontario.

19. Bewick's Wren. Blue-listed 1972–1986. Clear statement from Middlewestern Prairie where three respondents reported it greatly down and one reported it down. Greatly down in Central Southern, Appalachian, Southern Atlantic Coast. Mixed responses elsewhere.

Carolina Wren. Blue-listed 1980–1981. Special Concern 1982–1986. Reported greatly down in Ontario Region by one respondent. Down in Middlewestern Prairie, and Southern Great Plains (3) regions.

Eastern Bluebird. Blue-listed 1972, 1978–1982. Special Concern 1986. Candidate for well-managed nest-box programs. Respondents that reported it as greatly down in Northeastern Maritime, Ontario, and Western Great Lakes regions as well as those reporting it down in Hudson-Delaware, Southern Atlantic Coasts, and Florida regions are expected to take prompt action to counter their local trends.

20. Loggerhead Shrike. Blue-listed 1972–1986. Reported down or greatly down everywhere east of the Mississippi River. Listed as Category 2 by the U.S.F.&W.S. This is a candidate for prompt study and evaluation for listing.

Bell's Vireo. Blue-listed 1972–1982. Special Concern 1986. Reported greatly down (2) or down (2) in Southern Great Plains, and down in South Texas re-



Eastern Bluebird. Photo/Allan D. Cruickshank/VIREO.



Loggerhead Shrike. Photo/Allan D. Cruickshank/VIREO.

gions. The southwestern population is of Special Concern. Of local concern elsewhere. Listed by the U.S.F.&W.S. as Category 3c in the southwest.

Golden-winged Warbler. Blue-listed 1981, 1982. Special Concern 1986. Reported greatly down by one respondent in Northeastern Maritime, and Middlewestern Prairie regions. Down in Hudson-Delaware, Ontario, Appalachian, and Middlewestern Prairie regions. Several mixed reports as well.

Yellow Warbler. Blue-listed 1973–1982. Special Concern 1986. No reports of continued declines from Northern Pacific Coast, Middle Pacific Coast, or Southern Pacific Coast—the heart of past areas of concern. Reported by one respondent each as down in Ontario, Appalachian, Central Southern, and Southern Great Plains, or as greatly down in Western Great Lakes, and Central Southern regions.

Eastern Meadowlark. Blue-listed 1980–1982. Special Concern 1986. Widely reported as down in the Northeast.

Orchard Oriole. Special Concern 1982–1986. Reported down in Hudson-Delaware, Appalachian, Middlewestern Prairie (2), and Southern Great Plains; greatly down reports from Central Southern, Northern Great Plains, and Southern Great Plains regions.

Dickcissel. Blue-listed 1978–1982. Special Concern 1986. Reported down (3) and greatly down (one) from Middlewestern Prairie Region. Also reported down from Central Southern, and Southern Great Plains regions.

21. Grasshopper Sparrow. Blue-listed 1974–1986. Reported as down in Northeastern Maritime (2), Ontario, Middlewestern Prairie (3), Central Southern, and Southern Great Plains regions; greatly down in Florida, and Appalachian regions. The U.S.F.&W.S. lists it as Category 1 in Florida.

Henslow's Sparrow. Blue-listed 1974–1981. Special Concern 1982–1986. Reported greatly down in Northeastern Maritime, Hudson-Delaware, Appalachian regions by one respondent each. Reported down in Southern Atlantic Coast, and Central Southern regions.

22. Bachman's Sparrow. Blue-listed 1972–1986. Two respondents each in Southern Atlantic Coast, and Middlewestern Prairie regions report it as greatly down.

SPECIES OF LOCAL CONCERN

Common Loon. Blue-listed 1981, 1982 with warnings about acid rain and powerboat problems. Local Concern 1986. Of Local Concern with only one respondent each from Hudson-Delaware, Florida, Middlewestern Prairie, and Northern Great Plains regions, who reported it as slightly down.

Red-necked Grebe. Blue-listed 1974–1981, but never with strong support. By 1982, there were signs that this never abundant coastal winterer was only of Special Concern to a few observers. Local Concern 1986. Reported as greatly down by a lone respondent from the Southern Atlantic Coast Region.

White Pelican. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. No nominations from any region this reporting period.

Double-crested Cormorant. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. Appears to be increasing everywhere. No nominations from any region recommending listing.

Great Blue Heron. Blue-listed 1980–1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. Reported as slightly down by one respondent each in Hudson-Delaware, Western Great Lakes, Middlewestern Prairie and Mountain West regions. Local Concern only.

Black-crowned Night-Heron. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. Reported down by a single respondent in Hudson Delaware, Florida, Ontario, Mountain West, and Middle Pacific Coast regions. Reported as greatly down in Middlewestern Pacific and Central Southern by a single respondent in each. More than 80 respondents reported it as stable or increasing greatly.

Trumpeter Swan. Local Concern 1986. Concern remains for the large percentage of the population wintering in one small part of the tri-state area of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming.

Turkey Vulture. Blue-listed 1972, 1980. Special Concern 1981–1982. Reported as slightly down in Central Southern, Southern Great Plains regions. Local Concern 1986.

Black Vulture. Blue-listed 1972, 1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. Reported as slightly down in Florida, Central Southern, Southern Great Plains, and greatly down in Southern Atlantic Coast.



Black Vulture. Photo/Allan D. Cruickshank/VIREO.

Harris' Hawk. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986.

Osprey. Blue-listed 1972–1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986, throughout its range. Not recommended for listing by any respondent.

Northern Bobwhite. Blue-listed 1980, 1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. Recovered from severe winter of 1979–1980. Of Local Concern to birders and hunters throughout range.

Common Tern. Blue-listed 1978–1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. Two respondents report it as down and greatly down in the Western Great Lakes Region.

Lewis' Woodpecker. Blue-listed 1975–1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. No respondents reported declines.

Least Flycatcher. Blue-listed 1980. Special Concern 1981–1982. Local Concern 1986. Reported down by one respondent each in Niagara Champlain, Prairie Provinces, Southern Great Plains regions. Reported greatly down by one respondent in Western Great Lakes Region. Other reports stable or increasing.

Cliff Swallow. Blue-listed 1976–1977, 1981. Special Concern 1982. Local

Concern 1986. One report of down in the Northeastern Maritime Region. All other reports stable or up.

Western Bluebird. Blue-listed 1972, 1978–1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. One respondent from the Middle Pacific Coast Region reported it down in numbers. See comments under Eastern Bluebird.

Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. No respondents reported it down. One letter criticized the Special Concern listing of 1982, but was not clear about alternatives. The U.S.F.&W.S. lists this race in Category 2—requesting more information.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Blue-listed 1980–1981. Special Concern 1982. Local Concern 1986. Decline of the early 1980s shows complete recovery.

—2031 Huidekoper Place, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20007

Table 1. Blue-listed (numbered) and Special Concern (unnumbered) species from *American Birds* reporting regions. A (greatly down), B (down). Number of respondents/region shown below region designations

	NEM	Q	HUD	MAC	SAC	FLA	ONT	NIC	APP	WGL	MWP	CSO	PRP	NGP	SGP	STX	MW	SOW	NPC	MPC	SPC	
	8	1	6	2	4	5	3	5	9	7	13	4	1	1	7	1	4	1	1	2	3	
W. Grebe	A		AB	A	A																	
1 Horned Grebe																						
Reddish Egret	AB						AB															
2 Least Bittern	B		B	B	B		AB	B			A	B	B									
3 Am. Bittern																						
Fulvous Whistling-Duck							A	B														
Black Duck											A	B					A					
Canvasback											B	B										
4 Sharp-shinned Hawk	B		B	B	B						AB											
5 Cooper's Hawk	B		B	B	B						AB											
Swainson's Hawk																						
Ferruginous Hawk																						
Crested Caracara																						
Merlin																						
6 Red-shouldered Hawk	A		AB		B		A	AB		B	B	B	B									
7 N. Harrier	B		AB		B		A	B			B	B	A									B
Sharp-tailed Grouse																						
Sage Grouse																						
King Rail	A			AB	B		B				B	A										
Clapper Rail																						
8 Piping Plover							B															
Snowy Plover							B															
Long-billed Curlew																						
9 Upland Sandpiper	B		B		B		A	B		B	A	B										
10 Roseate Tern	B		B		B		AB															
11 Black Tern																						
12 Yellow-billed Cuckoo	B		B	B	B		A	AB		AB	B	B	B									
Com. Barn-Owl																						
E. Screech-Owl																						
Burrowing Owl																						
13 Spotted Owl																						
14 Short-eared Owl	AB		B		AB		B	B		AB	B	A	A									
15 Whip-poor-will	B		B		B																	
16 Com. Nighthawk	B		B		B			A		A	B	B	B									
17 Ruby-throated Hummingbird																						
Red-headed Woodpecker	B		B		B		B															
Hairy Woodpecker																						
E. Phoebe																						
Willow Flycatcher																						
Purple Martin																						
18 Scrub Jay	A		AB				AB															
Sedge Wren																						
19 Bewick's Wren																						
Carolina Wren																						
E. Bluebird	A		B		B		A															
20 Loggerhead Shrike	AB		B		B		AB	A		A	AB	B	B	B								
Bell's Vireo																						
Golden-winged Warbler	A		B				B															
Yellow Warbler																						
E. Meadowlark	B		AB		B		B	AB		A	AB	AB										
Orchard Oriole			B																			
Dickcissel																						
21 Grasshopper Sparrow	B						A															
Henslow's Sparrow	A																					
22 Bachman's Sparrow																						