

The Adirondack cone crop was judged in Region 5 to be poor to fair except for larch and in Region 6 pine and balsam poor but white and black spruce good.

On the Ontario Lake Plain seed was judged fair to good but, of course, here shrub and tree fruits are not as important a winter food source as on the more heavily forested Allegheny Plateau.

The Plateau west of Seneca Lake produced good hemlock, yellow birch and black-berried elder fruits but poor wild black cherry and white ash seeds. Beech and oak were only fair. On the eastern portion of the Plateau crops were apparently better, particularly the wild black cherry in Delaware County. Oliver H. Hewitt spoke of their great abundance there in October during a limited Turkey hunting season and 2 weeks later he noted their complete absence in Region 1. Cherry often seems to have good crops every other year, like their relatives the apple, and the eastern part of the Plateau seems to be out of phase, in this regard, with the western part.

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THE NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD CARD PROGRAM FOR 1966

The first year of the North American Nest-record Card Program went very well. The Laboratory of Ornithology mailed out over 45,000 cards to individuals and regional centers from Florida to Alaska. We were encouraged at the response; over 23,000 completed cards were received from 700 individuals. We have accumulated over 500 cards each for several species; among these are Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Catbird, Eastern Bluebird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. The Red-winged Blackbird has been selected for a trial run on the computer, and the data from our 2,300 cards on that species are now being punched onto IBM cards.

The principal aim of the program is to accumulate a large amount of data on the breeding biology of birds of the entire North American continent. This data will be stored on IBM cards in a form ready for analysis. This data, once processed, will be available to researchers interested in many areas of avian biology, such as annual and geographical variations in breeding seasons, clutch size, fledging periods, and nesting success. We hope that the program will also play a key role in the study of man's modification of his environment through marsh drainage, urbanization, and the use of pesticides.

We need data from all parts of the country. Observations from city parks and back yards, of the commonest species, are as important as those from remote parts of the continent. We need the co-operation of all competent field observers; please get in touch with your local organization and find out if it is cooperating as a regional center for the distribution of cards. If they are not, you may want to help organize a club effort. Individuals may also obtain cards directly from us. In any case, write for information and cards to North American Nest Record Card Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, 33 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. Be sure to include your zip code with your return address.