



The Katharine Ordway
Natural History Study Area

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ORDWAY BULLETIN
No. 106

MACALESTER
COLLEGE

located at 9550 Inver Grove Trail (Dakota County Road 77), Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

The "BLUE LIST" at ORDWAY (IV).

We are all aware of the "endangered species" of birds - the Whooping Crane, the California Condor, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, etc. They have been much publicized but one thing about their publicity is that it tends to distract our attention from other species unless and until they actually become "endangered" themselves. Therefore, the National Audubon Society has been publishing since Dec. 1971 an annual list of "threatened species", entitled The Blue List. It indicates bird species which are in decline, either generally or in some parts of their range. Previous Ordway Bulletins (#1, 43, 52) have dealt with this subject.

In the 1981 Blue List only two species which might be observed at Ordway are listed.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird: I have not sighted this species here at all during the 1981 summer but did have some evidence of it during 1980; so I believe it requires more observation on my part.

The Tufted Titmouse: This species has not been observed here in more than ten years although one might see it in this part of Minnesota. We are on the northern edge of its range.

Another observation which applies locally (at Ordway) is the decline in some of the grass-dwelling species: Eastern Meadowlark; Vesper Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow. This is usually an indication of destruction of habitat. However, a similar species, the Field Sparrow, is still quite evident although perhaps decreasing slightly here.

April 2, 1982.
jc/

R J CHRISTMAN,
Naturalist