



The Katharine Ordway  
Natural History Study Area

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ORDWAY BULLETIN  
NO. 52.

MACALESTER  
COLLEGE

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

Subject: "The BLUE LIST" at ORDWAY - An Up-date (III).

The Blue List, inaugurated six years ago, is a list of bird species which are of especial concern because they are giving indications of population declines or lessening of their ranges. The list is published by The National Audubon Society and is a selection based upon reports from observers throughout the country. It is a moot recognition of the effects of chemicals on breeding; of the reduction of habitats; of the problems of predators; etc.

The significance of these listings may be manifold: They act as an "early warning system"; also, they give us a signal to be aware that observations are especially valuable and wanted. Sometimes a species may be only in local trouble, as exemplified by a recent decline in the House Wren in Ohio while the same species was quite prominent elsewhere.

The Blue List may not prevent the decline of a species but it may well focus the attention of many observers on particular problems and perhaps alert the general public to situations that need action.

The current list, based upon 1976 observations, includes the following species which use Ordway as a habitat:

- Yellow Warbler - This little "yellow birdie" has not put in many appearances during the past two years, only twice in 1976.
- Warbling Vireo - This great songster is still fairly frequently heard in middle and late summer; perhaps it is not so much on the decline here as elsewhere in the Upper Midwest.
- Eastern Bluebird - Our Bluebirds are still quite prominent here, the likely result of the providing of nesting-boxes for them.
- Bobolink - It has concerned us for several years that not a single sighting has been made at Ordway despite the fact that there is good habitat here for them. Frequent sightings have been made less than a mile away in fields very similar to ours although last year none were reported on this other site.

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Naturalist,  
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15 April 1977