

BIRD CONSERVATION

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ESKIMO CURLEW STUDY



Eskimo Curlew exhibiting heavy back spotting.

Analysis of our data on Eskimo Curlews is now nearly complete. Such data form the basis for being able to age and sex any individuals that may be found in the future.

determined that males and females differ in size, with particularly bill and tail length separating the sexes. As is typical for many shorebird species, females average larger than males.

differences in measurements has been more problematic. Although spring birds average larger than fall birds, again primarily in bill and tail length, we could find no difference between early and late fall

To date, we have Finding seasonal

(Continued on page 2)

ESKIMO CURLEW

-CONTINUED

“Lightly spotted individuals, like the specimen above, tend to be males, whereas heavily spotted birds tend to be females.”



Eskimo Curlew exhibiting light back spotting.

migrants, which correspond to adults and juveniles.

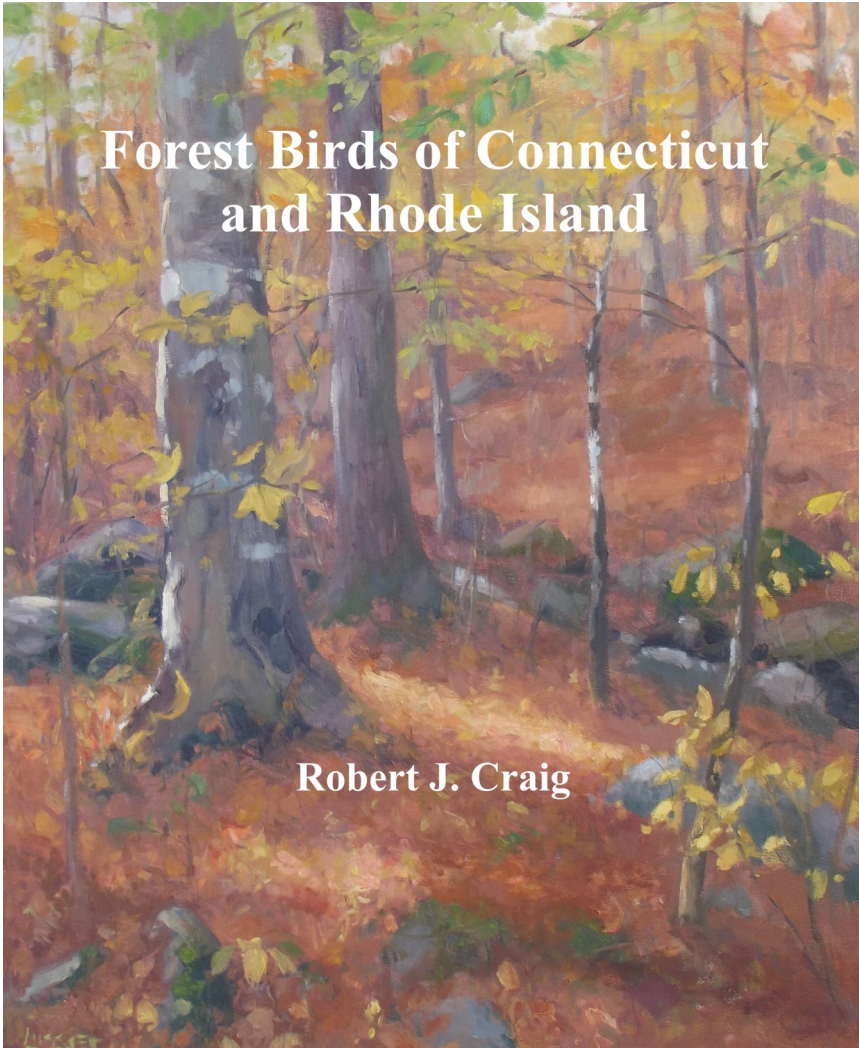
Analysis of plumage characteristics is still ongoing, although we have already identified back spotting as a measure that separates the sexes. Lightly spotted individuals, like the specimen above, tend to be males, whereas heavily spotted birds tend to be females.

Examination of seasonal differences in plumage are ongoing, but as of

yet have turned up few clear differences, although spring individuals do appear to have darker backs than fall birds.

One last notable finding that we are still examining is that there may be two subspecies or at least two distinctive plumage states of the Eskimo Curlew. Suspicion that this might be the case was first raised in 1861, although it has never been conclusively demonstrated.

FOREST BIRD BOOK AVAILABLE IN PRINT



“The print version is available through Arts and Academic Publishing for purchase...”

The print version of Forest Birds of Connecticut and Rhode Island is now available.

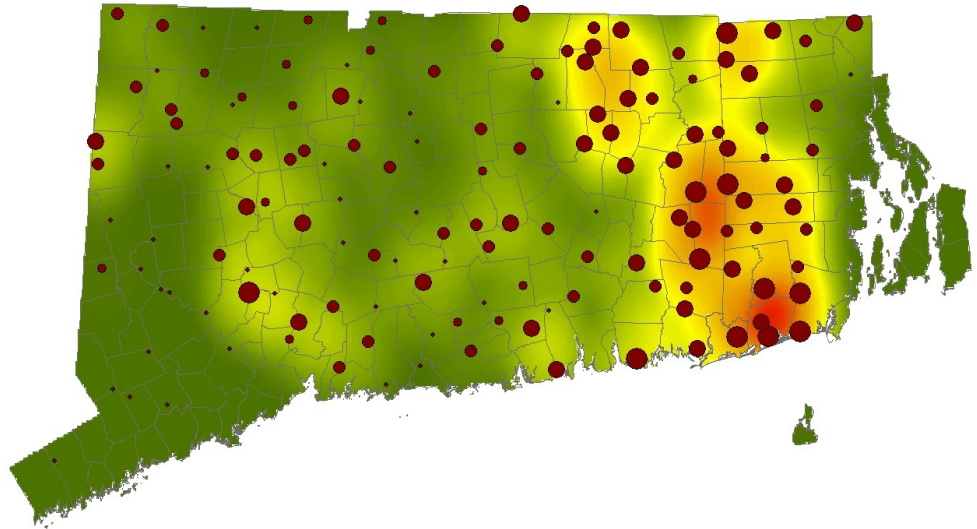
Forest Birds of Connecticut and Rhode Island is presently available as an open access document through our publishing partner, [Arts and Academic Publishing](#). It is now also available in print form.

Individuals who sponsored species had their name added to the text under the species account that they chose, and they have also received a complimentary copy of the book.

The print version is available through *Arts and Academic Publishing* for purchase, although the

open access version is still available for free download.

FOREST BIRD MAPS



The summer population of the Eastern Towhee has a breeding concentration in eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island. Much lower numbers are present particularly in southwestern Connecticut.

“These maps will be tools for land use and conservation planning across the region.”

The companion to the *Forest Birds of Connecticut and Rhode Island* text will be maps of the summer and winter distributions of all species. Its author is Kyle Arvisais of the University of Maine forestry program, who has worked with BCR Director Craig in bringing the project to completion.

This series of maps will provide the first ever view of the distribution of species' population densities by knitting together data gathered during the eight years of the study. Although

combining data from multiple years does not account for year-to-year variation, previous studies by BCR have demonstrated that such variation is small compared to regional variation.

In addition to maps for individual species, maps of community characteristics will also be produced. These include maps of habitat features as well as maps of cumulative species richness and population densities.

The maps will be tools for land use and conservation planning

across the region. Before this study, there were no high level, quantitative data available for the wildlife resources of the region.

FIELD STATION UPDATE



This Red-bellied Woodpecker is one of the birds banded during our spring banding program.

“We have been working to replace these invasives with a variety of native and cultivated shrub and tree species that are attractive to wildlife.”

Habitat management efforts have been in full swing since late winter when we began a massive program to clear invasive alien shrubs from our field borders. In particular, the invasive Asiatic Amelopsis and Asiatic Bittersweet vines have been removed, along with such pest shrubs as Multiflora Rose, Russian Olive, European Privet, Japanese Barberry and Burning Bush. In addition, we have been

removing dead and dying White Ashes so that they may be replaced with species that are more attractive to wildlife.

We have been working to replace invasives with a variety of native and cultivated shrub and tree species. Natives that we have added to date include Shadbush, Sweet Pepperbush, Spicebush, Striped Maple and Buttonball Bush. Cultivated species include those that flower

and fruit heavily, such as apples, peaches and pears, as well as crabapples, azaleas, rhododendrons and viburnums.

The Newsletter of
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Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

Membership

- \$125 Species sponsor
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- \$250 Patron
- \$500 Benefactor
- \$1,000 Grand benefactor

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Help us continue to fly.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not yet become a member of BCR, it is never too late. Memberships remain one of our principal means of funding the projects that

we conduct, so please consider joining us. Membership applications and contribution options are available at [www.birdconservation-](http://www.birdconservation-research.org)

[research.org](http://www.birdconservation-research.org).