

BIRD CONSERVATION

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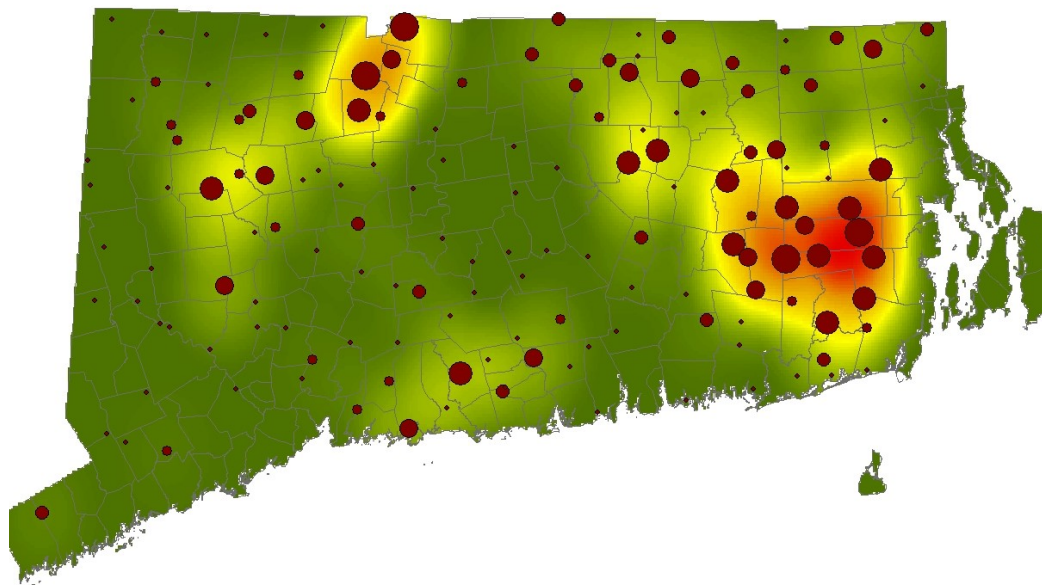
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FOREST BIRD MAPS NOW AVAILABLE



Distribution of Pine Warbler population densities. Red = most dense, green = least dense.

Maps of southern New England that show the distribution of forest bird population densities are now available in the new book, *Forest Birds of Connecticut and Rhode Island: maps of distributions and population densities*,

by Kyle Arvisais and Robert Craig. The book is presented as an open access document by BCR's publishing partner, *Arts and Academic Publishing*.

The above map shows the distribution of the Pine

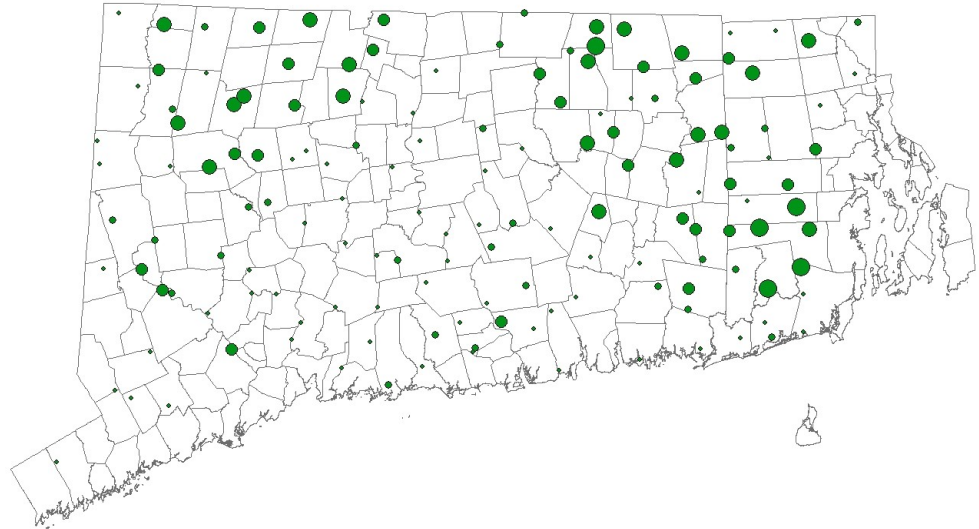
Warbler- a species that was rather rare in southern New England as recently as the 1970s. Since that time, its populations have rapidly expanded to the point where it is now locally abundant.

(Continued on page 2)

FOREST BIRDS

-CONTINUED

“...we can compare population distributions with the distribution of forest types...”



The distribution of forest types across southern New England. Larger dots indicate a greater percentage of coniferous cover, smaller dots indicate more deciduous cover.

The Pine Warbler is largely a species of heavily coniferous forests, particularly pine forests, so its distribution mirrors that of coniferous cover across the region (see above map). It is particularly numerous in the nearly pure pine forests that occupy dry, sandy soils in south-eastern Connecticut and southern Rhode Island. In these locations, it inhabits pure white and pitch pine stands as well as pine-oak cover.

performing bird surveys, we also conducted the most extensive sampling of southern New England forests ever accomplished. Hence, we can compare population distributions with the distribution of forest types, individual vegetation types, moisture regimes, understory densities and regional elevations.

Concurrently with

CURLEW STUDY NOW AVAILABLE



The distribution of North American specimen records for the Eskimo Curlew. Gray dots = spring, black dots = fall.

“... now available as a ‘preprint’ document from our publishing partner, Arts and Academic Publishing.”

Our background study of the Eskimo Curlew that details aspects of the species’ external anatomy, plumages and historic distribution is now available as a ‘preprint’ document from our publishing partner, *Arts and Academic Publishing*. It demonstrates that

males and females are distinguishable particularly through bill measurements and extent of back spotting. It further demonstrates that lightly spotted individuals predominate among later fall migrants, suggesting that such individuals are juveniles. An unreported plumage state that lacks

the characteristic Y markings on the breast is also described, along with important historic data on the breeding and migratory distribution of the species.

FOREST BIRDS OF NORTHEASTERN CT

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...”*



The conifer-northern hardwood forests of Union, Connecticut were part of our 2018 study area.

A study begun during the summer of 1985—the pilot study for BCR’s 2001-2009 *Forest Bird Survey of Southern New England*—has been repeated this past summer at ten locations across the highest elevations of northeastern Connecticut. The goal of the re-survey is to use the long term perspective gained by such an effort to understand something of the dynamic nature of bird populations in southern New England.

Although detailed analysis is still a year away, preliminary

observations demonstrate that some species rare or absent 30 years ago are now common— notably the Pine Warbler and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. More typically southern species have also invaded the region’s conifer-northern hardwood forests to a much greater degree than in 1985. Prominent among these are the Red-bellied Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse. Still other species, like the Pine Siskin and White-throated Sparrow, have disappeared from the region, whereas other

typically northern-associated species like the Dark-eyed Junco, Winter Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Blackburnian Warbler are much less widespread than previously.

Next year, we will again duplicate these surveys to gain comparative data on year-to-year variation in populations.

FIELD STATION UPDATE



One of this summer's vegetable rotation plots showing sweet corn, squash and potatoes.

Habitat management efforts at the BCR field station are proceeding, with the replacement of exotic field border plants with such natives as Sweet Pepperbush, Spicebush, Striped Maple and Arrowwood. Our orchard plantings are also expanding, with the introduction of additional apple varieties. Other wildlife-friendly plantings about the borders of our agricultural lands include multiple crabapple

varieties as well as a host of flowering and winter-fruiting species.

We've also doubled the size of one of our vegetable plots and will be adding a third plot next year so that we may practice a three year crop rotation schedule as part of our organic farming strategy. How birds may function as part of this strategy is to be investigated.

We are also continuing to

investigate agricultural land as migratory habitat for birds, particularly midwestern-breeding songbirds. This year, we gained additional evidence that such species are using local habitats, with the appearance of Vesper, Savannah and Clay-colored Sparrows as well as Sedge Wrens in our area.

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

The Newsletter of
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Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

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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).