

BIRD CONSERVATION

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CONNECTICUT VALLEY SURVEYED



Light fog rolls down the Connecticut River in Windsor

Mornings on the Connecticut River were sweet with stillness as tangerine sunlight first flooded the tide pools and backwaters, creeping slowly up the stems of cattails and reeds, until it illuminated a watery landscape of dew-drops condensed from summer's sultry air. I found the river particularly appealing on mornings when fog would roll down

it, turning it into an enchanted landscape: a place to escape from the world of mortals. Indeed, the river I studied was rather an enigma, flowing continuously like time, taking what was new down its course, turning it from young to old, and then releasing it from material bonds. From there, we cannot know what becomes of such things,

once young, then old, and then free.

The above sentences are from an upcoming publication by BCR Director Robert Craig. The river valley has been the focus of this summer's research into forest bird distributions.

SURVEY SHOWS SURPRISES

“The most common species recorded across eastern Connecticut and western Rhode Island have in many cases not been common in the Connecticut Valley.”



Dawn breaks over Bradley Mountain in Plainville, the site of one of this summer’s forest transects. The Hanging Hills of Meriden, another study site, may be seen in the distant background.

The most common species recorded across eastern Connecticut and western Rhode Island have in many cases not been common in the Connecticut Valley. Species like the Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Veery, and Red-shouldered Hawk have been uncommon to absent along many of the forest transects studied this summer.

floodplain forests, and other habitat differences exist as well.

Another factor likely to be

influencing forest species is tract size. Unlike in areas to the east, where forests are often extensive and contiguous, valley for-



The Ruby-throated Hummingbird has been in evidence along forest transects this summer, particularly in the vicinity of swamps.

Some of the reason for the difference between regions appears related to differences in habitats. The traprock ridges of the valley have their slopes forested with maples and beeches instead of the oaks and hickories of eastern forests. Maples, elms and birches also predominate in the valley’s lowland and

FIELD TRIPS



Nancy LaFleur, Ron Tillen, Kathy Demers, and Ken and Suzanne Anderson join for an early spring outing to Yale Forest.

An early May trip to Yale Forest in Union, Connecticut proved a productive outing despite our cold spring delaying the arrival of some spring migrants. A morning of exploring still produced a list of over 60 bird species, including such local breeders as Hermit Thrush, Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler,

Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush. Many of these species reach their principal southern range limit in the Yale Forest area.

A summer trip is to be organized for late July or early August, after the close of the present research season. This year's research is running later than usual be-

cause of the very wet May and June in our area. However, despite the weather, the hundredth transect of the forest bird survey has now been completed. We may choose one of these study sites in the Connecticut Valley for this upcoming trip.

“Despite the weather, the hundredth transect of the forest bird survey has now been completed.”

SURVEY- CONTINUED

ests can be small and isolated. The absence of particularly forest interior species like the Scarlet Tanager and Ovenbird may be a consequence of such forest fragmentation.

Notable species occurring in valley forests include the Cooper's Hawk, Common Raven and, across the northern valley, such boreal species as the Blackburnian Warbler, Black-

throated Blue Warbler, and Winter Wren. In southern areas the Acadian Flycatcher and Hooded Warbler have been present.

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