

# BIRD CONSERVATION

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 3 JULY 2009

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## FOREST BIRDS SHOW HABITAT SHIFTS



### Permanent resident species may use the summer forest landscape in ways distinct from those of winter.

The next phase in the analysis of data from the *Forest Bird Survey of Southern New England* has focused on permanent resident species. Although such species may be present year-round, summer and winter populations are not necessarily composed of the same individuals. In many cases, birds that

breed further to the north join with or replace local residents in winter. As these new individuals move into winter forests, they are likely to use the habitat in ways that differ from how they use it in summer. We might expect, for example, that the harsh winter environment would require birds to be more

adaptable and become habitat generalists.

Because the *Forest Bird Survey of Southern New England* gathered not only census data but also data on regional habitats, we are able to examine these sorts of questions. Preliminary analyses

*(Continued on page 2)*

**“Preliminary analyses have shown, for example, that ... the Black-capped Chickadee has significantly greater summer populations in more heavily coniferous forests.”**



**The bleak winter forest landscape may require that permanent resident birds become habitat generalists at this season.**

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have shown, for example, that in eastern Connecticut, the Black-capped Chickadee has significantly greater summer populations in more heavily coniferous forests. In contrast, the affinity for conifers disappears in winter. As with other permanent resident species, chickadees congregate at lower elevations near Long Island Sound at this season.

In addition to these sorts of landscape-level analyses, we are also preparing to have a more intimate look at how individual birds occupy habitats. During surveys, we gathered information on habitat use by thousands of individual birds. Once these observa-

tions are compiled, we will examine habitat use at this finer level of resolution. We also will be able to examine the simultaneous influence of a number of habitat factors on birds (for example, how do soil

moisture, shrub density, percent conifer cover and percent canopy cover simultaneously affect where species occur in the forest?).



**The Purple Finch is an uncommon permanent resident of southern New England's forests.**

# THE RETURN OF FIELD TRIPS



***“Our next organized trip is planned for August ...”***

**An early spring outing to Thompson Lake yielded a few good finds for intrepid bird-watchers coming from as far away as Fairfield County.**

Despite the unending rain of spring and early summer, our return to field-tripping was initiated with a late April outing to Thompson Lake in Thompson, CT. Although most spring migrants had yet to arrive, early arrivals were in evidence, including Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Pine Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow and Barn Swallow.

May and June trips were planned for Boston Hollow, Ashford, CT but both were cancelled due to the non-stop deluge of spring. Informal, unannounced outings in that vicinity during May-June still produced notable finds, however, including Orchard Oriole, Cooper’s Hawk, Common Raven and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

A March Board of Trustees trip to the lower Connecticut River was also successful, with several Red-shouldered Hawks in evidence as well

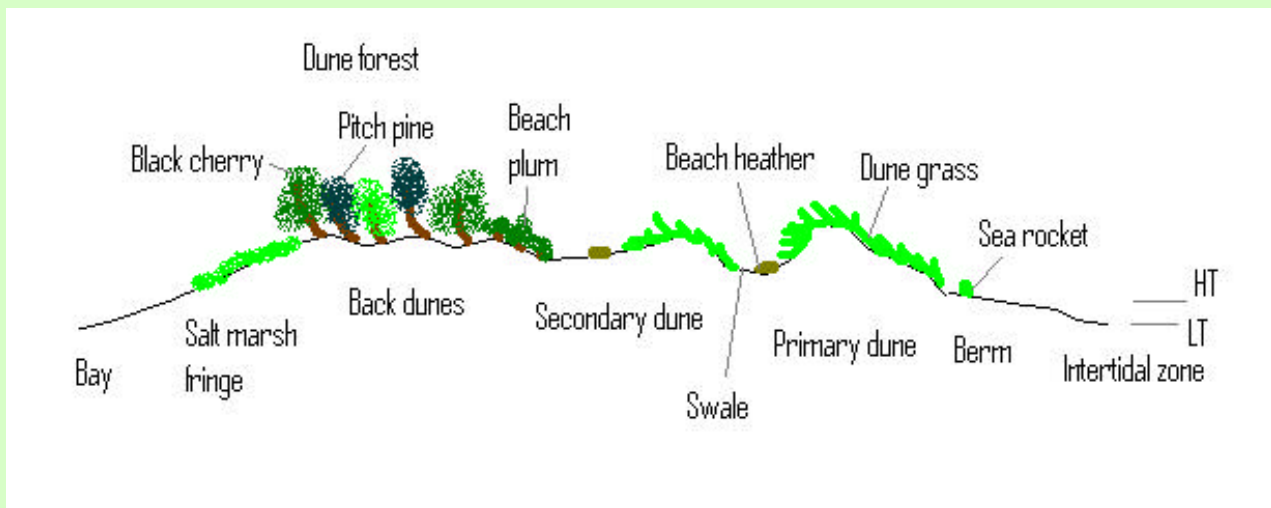
as Bald Eagles, Common Mergansers, Common Goldeneyes, Pintails, Northern Shoveler, and American Widgeon.

Our next organized trip is planned for August, tentatively for Napatree Point, RI. In years past, this trip has yielded such notables as Ruff, Greater Shearwater, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Royal Tern and Parasitic Jaeger. Let’s keep our fingers crossed...



# EDUCATOR RESOURCES: POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

## Profile of a Southern New England Barrier Beach



Above is a slide from our PowerPoint, *Southern New England Habitats*. It and all our presentations are available through the Publications tab of our web site, [www.birdconservationresearch.org](http://www.birdconservationresearch.org).

PowerPoints are the new computer-age slide shows. They permit a range of information to be presented to an audience, from visual to text to video to audio, in a manner that old-fashioned slide shows cannot compare with. As such, they are powerful and effective tools for educators.

In order to make use of this

technology for educating the public about environmental issues in southern New England, we have compiled a series of PowerPoint presentations on topics ranging from the *Forest Bird Survey of Southern New England* to population ecology.

Highlighted in this issue of *Bird Conservation* is our pres-

entation on regional habitats. This particular show deals with the barrier beach environment. Others characterize tidal marshes, bogs and floodplains.

# POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS: CONTINUED

## Adaptations



- Plants and animals must have adaptations to survive the high salinity, high energy, often dry environments of the beach.
- Plants have adaptations such as waxy coatings (prickly pear cactus at left) on leaves to reduce evaporation of water, salt glands to remove excess salt from tissues, and net-like rhizomes to help anchor them to the shifting sands.
- Animals such as the herring gull (above) also have salt glands at the base of the beak to remove excess salts from tissues.

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# Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

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Don't forget to renew your  
membership.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It is not too late to renew your membership. Please support us by returning the member renewal form that you received with the printed January newsletter.

Memberships provide a large part of the funds necessary to conduct our research and public education activities.

In order to continue provid-

ing these services, we need your continued support! Membership applications and payment options are also available at [www.birdconservationresearch.org](http://www.birdconservationresearch.org)