

BIRD CONSERVATION

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 3 JULY 2011

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FOREST BIRD SURVEY: BIRD POPULATIONS IN CONNECTICUT AND RHODE ISLAND



The Brown-headed Cowbird was a fairly common invader of forest environments throughout the region.

The analysis of forest bird survey data continues, with much larger samples from eight years of study leading to more accurate and precise measurements of regional populations.

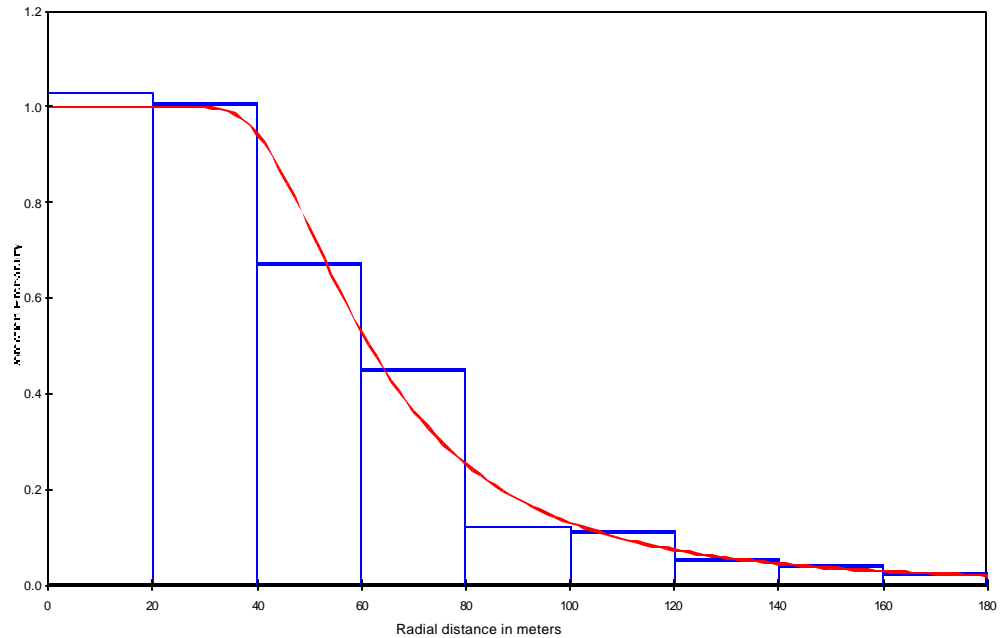
Measurement of populations relies on construction of detectability curves—graphical representations of how easily a species is detected at increasingly greater distances from a point. More data lead to increasingly realistic detectability curves, such as that shown for the Black-throated Blue Warbler on the next page.

Although computations for the over 100 species detected during surveys will be continuing for some time, population estimates completed to date follow:

(Continued on page 2)

FOREST BIRD POPULATIONS—CONTINUED

“More data lead to development of increasingly realistic detectability curves.”



The detectability curve of the Black-throated Blue Warbler showed a characteristic decline in detectability with distance.

(Continued from page 1)

Black-throated Blue Warbler:

Northeast CT: 5091
 Southeast CT: 0
 Central CT: 925
 Northwest CT: 34,798
 Southwest CT: 898
 Rhode Island: 1333

Red-shouldered Hawk: Summer:

Northeast CT: 171
 Southeast CT: 261
 Central CT: 33
 Northwest CT: 98
 Southwest CT: 174

Rhode Island: 219

Winter:

Northeast CT: 47
 Southeast CT: 31
 Central CT: 16
 Northwest CT: 33
 Southwest CT: 63
 Rhode Island: 31

Wood Thrush:

Northeast CT: 17,447
 Southeast CT: 23,401
 Central CT: 37,816
 Northwest CT: 21,374
 Southwest CT: 20,076
 Rhode Island: 11,474

Pileated Woodpecker: Summer:

Northeast CT: 321
 Southeast CT: 369
 Central CT: 363
 Northwest CT: 980
 Southwest CT: 379
 Rhode Island: 80

Winter:

Northeast CT: 424
 Southeast CT: 367
 Central CT: 194
 Northwest CT: 195
 Southwest CT: 699
 Rhode Island: 27

BCR LAUNCHES ONLINE JOURNAL

Bird Conservation Research, Inc. Contribution 17

2010

SEASONAL SHIFTS IN POPULATION DISTRIBUTIONS AND HABITAT OCCUPANCY BY PERMANENT RESIDENT FOREST BIRDS IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT

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Abstract. I studied 10 permanent resident bird species in unfragmented forests of eastern Connecticut to discover: 1) are populations of resident species truly sedentary or do they seasonally change in density and distribution and 2) are any seasonal changes in species' occurrences related to environmental parameters in manners that help to explain the changes? I performed duplicate surveys using the variable circular plot technique at 50 systematically placed transects and characterized habitats at 15 plots/ transect. I related population densities to habitat features and also compared the occurrence of individual birds within habitat plots to the characteristics of those plots. The Tufted Titmouse (*Poecile bicolor*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) and Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) showed consistent, significant population declines, whereas the Black-capped Chickadee (*P. atricapillus*) showed significant increases from summer to winter and the Red-bellied

Bird Conservation Research, Inc., with a mission of conducting scientific research to drive conservation action, wishes to announce that its *Contributions* series is now open to author submissions. The series was originally established to make foundation findings freely accessible to all. The *Contributions* series is available online, is open access, and is to be permanently archived at an academic institution.

Submissions should deal with basic and applied avian research that has conservation implications, and may be data papers, syntheses or commentaries. Advantages of the series in-

clude its extensive online viewership, ready access via search engines, greatly simplified submission procedures, greatly reduced publication costs and a double-blind peer-review process for unbiased manuscript evaluation. Submissions are welcome from anywhere in the world, and are particularly encouraged from researchers at small or non-academic institutions, researchers who have single author contributions, researchers with a limited publication budget and new authors who may need assistance in achieving professional publication standards. For further information, see www.birdconservationresearch.org/publications/submissions.

The excerpt at left is from a recent publication in the *Contributions* series. The entire paper may be viewed at www.birdconservationresearch.org.

FIELD TRIPS



BCR Trustee Juan Sanchez (with wide-brimmed hat) leading a group of birders on a May field trip to Goodwin State Forest, Hampton.

This spring, BCR hosted an early May walk to Goodwin State Forest, Hampton, co-led by Trustee Juan Sanchez and Director Robert Craig. A second late May walk through Yale Forest, Union, was lead by Director Craig. Both were well attended and both yielded a good variety of birds.

Despite the chilly winds of early

spring, we found a number of migrants at Goodwin, including Common Loon, Osprey, Chipping Sparrow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, E. Phoebe, Brown-headed Cowbird and Red-winged Blackbird.

On our later trip to Yale Forest, the number of warbler species found increased, with Black-throated Green, Blackburnian and Canada warblers also present, along with Louisiana and Northern waterthrushes.

The Newsletter of
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