

BIRD CONSERVATION

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Forest birds</i>	1
<i>BCR gift</i>	1
<i>Ecoregions</i>	2
<i>Species Sponsors</i>	3
<i>Membership</i>	4

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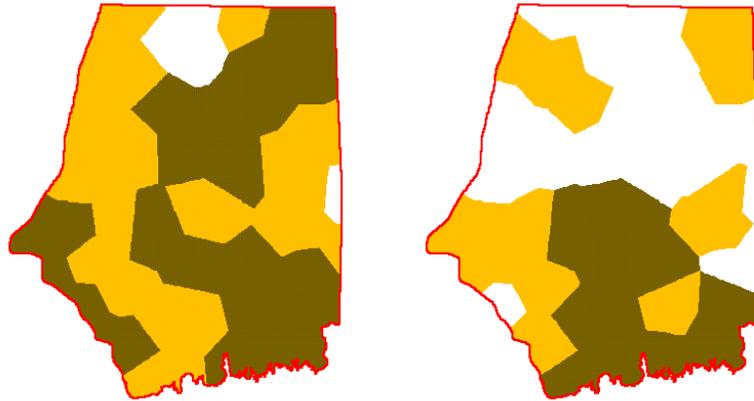
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FOREST BIRDS OF THE LAST GREEN VALLEY



As in many "permanent resident" species, the distribution of the Tufted Titmouse changes dramatically from summer (left) to winter (right).

Forest Birds of the Last Green Valley: the Density Distribution, Habitat Ecology, and Conservation of the Forest Birds of Eastern Connecticut, by Robert J. Craig, Michael Altshul and Kathleen G. Beal, is the product of our first two years of research into the forest birds of our region.

It has been designed to assist natural resource managers with open space planning. In particular, it is intended for conservation commissions that must develop town plans of conservation and development.

The work provides the first

ever high level, quantitative look at the wildlife resources of southern New England. Its mapped data can be applied to Geographic Information Systems databases.

PERRY HEIGHTS PRESS MAKES GIFT

Perry Heights Press has made a generous gift toward publication of BCR's first book, *Forest Birds of*

the Last Green Valley. The Press is a Wilton, Connecticut-based publisher of natural history and chil-

drens books.

Community contributions like this one are making it

BCR RECEIVES GIFT

(CONTINUED)

possible for BCR to provide data at nominal cost to all those in the conservation world who need it.

We are rapidly approaching our funding goals for the book, and hope to

have printed copies available by the end of the year. However, we need additional assistance to reach these goals.

We are still offering individuals the opportunity to

be sponsors of bird species listed in the book. The sponsorship form on the next page provides details about how to become a sponsor.

“Ecoregions are geographic subdivisions of the landscape that are based on regional climate, geology, topography and natural communities.”

ECOREGIONS OF CONNECTICUT REVISITED



The summit of Bear Mountain, Salisbury looks out over the newly defined Northwest Uplands Ecoregion

BCR's research plate is full. Last summer, we studied the forest bird distributions of Rhode Island. We will be doing the same this winter, as part of our ongoing effort to understand the nature of forest bird communities of south-

ern New England.

However, that has left fall available for another project! So, this autumn we have undertaken the task of re-examining the ecoregion concept for Connecticut.

Ecoregions are geographic subdivisions of the landscape that are based on regional climate, geology, topography and natural communities. They were devised in 1976 to assist with identifying the important natural variation pre-

sent in the Connecticut landscape.

Initially, 15 ecoregions were defined, largely on the basis of subjective judgment and qualitative field studies. Although this was a valuable starting point, since 1976 no thorough re-examination of the concept has been published.

We have now completed this re-examination, which began by refining the criteria for defining ecoregions.

Based on our refinements, we now recognize eight ecoregions. Quantitative data on habitats and bird distributions collected during the Forest Bird Survey of eastern Connecticut greatly assisted with the re-analysis.

Our ultimate goal is to clarify the concept to the point where it is more useful in identifying natural processes that lead to patterns observed in plant and animal communities. Such clarification also will assist

with focusing regional efforts at open space planning.

SPECIES SPONSORS



The species account for the Louisiana Waterthrush still needs a sponsor!

Forest Birds of the Last Green Valley, the atlas of breeding and wintering forest birds of eastern Connecticut, is now complete and ready for the printer. The book contains detailed analyses of forest bird communities, and also contains

maps of the distribution of every bird species occurring in eastern Connecticut.

Even though towns have long needed a work like this to improve the quality of their open space plan-

ning, the actual cost of hiring consultants to gather such data has been prohibitive. So, through its mission of conducting such large scale projects for public benefit, BCR has accomplished the project with a mix of research grants and community donations. The results will soon be available to all conservationists at nominal cost.

In order for us to complete this project, we still need community assistance. You can help by sponsoring a species account. A number of species already have sponsors, but many more need them. You may view the species list at www.birdconservationresearch.org. Your name will be listed at the end of your species account.

Species Sponsorship

For Birds of the Last Green Valley
(sponsorships are \$125; please select a first, second and third choice)

Species Choice:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

City _____

State, zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

The Newsletter of
Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

90 Liberty Highway
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Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

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____ \$10 Electronic member
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____ \$25 Regular member
(receive mailings also)
____ \$35 Family membership
____ \$50 Sustaining member
____ \$100 Contributor
____ \$ 250 Patron
____ \$ 500 Benefactor
____ \$ 1000 Grand
benefactor

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

City _____

State, zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



Seen any birds?

www.
birdconservationresearch
.org

MEMBERSHIP

Memberships become more important to us than ever as our research program progresses. BCR is

funded completely by memberships, gifts and research grants. Please help bird conservation by

becoming a member.