

# BIRD CONSERVATION

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## WINTER SURVEYS OF SOUTHEAST CONNECTICUT



**Winter is a challenging but dramatic season for field studies.**

**W**inter surveys of Southeast Connecticut this year will complete studies of year-round bird populations in eastern Connecticut. Both the northeastern and southeastern portions of the state have been the focus of four years of investigations, during which each portion has been surveyed twice.

Duplicating surveys greatly increases the strength of conclusions that can be made about our regional bird populations. With such data, general regional patterns can be differentiated from yearly differences that arise.

To date, preliminary analyses have indicated that in

winter some species prefer to remain in certain parts of our region, whereas others avoid certain locations. In contrast, wintering patterns of species like Blue Jays and Robins may vary from year to year.

## CENTRAL CONNECTICUT'S FOREST BIRDS

***“Central Connecticut contains several types of distinctive forest systems.”***



**The rural landscapes of the Connecticut valley are fast disappearing.**

**A**s we complete our studies of the more eastern portions of southern New England, we are turning our eyes west to those portions of Connecticut yet to be surveyed. The next geographic region upon which we will focus will be the Connecticut Valley of the central portion of the state.

Central Connecticut contains several types of forest systems, including lowland hardwood forest, forests of traprock ridges, and floodplain forests. Each of these is of considerable interest to the conservation community.

The soils of central Connecticut are different from those of the rest of our region, and the forests that grow on them are, therefore, distinctive in a number of ways. Soils tend to be more fertile and less acidic than those of the state's highlands. There are exceptions, however, such as areas of ancient sand deposits that have developed into dry, sterile pine forests.

A difficulty that arises in studying the birds of this region is that much of it is urbanized. Remaining for-

ests are often highly fragmented and unsuitable for the types of large scale surveys we perform. However, despite such practical difficulties, we expect that by the end of next year we will have completed winter and summer surveys of the region.

Because central Connecticut continues to be deforested, the importance of our studies is great. Our documentation of forest bird use of the region will assist in developing local conservation priorities.

# CONSERVATION CONSULTATIONS



**The marshes of Wangunk Meadows are among the premier bird habitats of southern New England.**

One of the missions of BCR is to provide technical assistance to towns and conservation organizations. In recent months BCR has made presentations that have assisted towns and regional conservation groups in attaining their conservation goals.

BCR makes available to any conservation organization requiring it a power point presentation on our program of forest bird surveys. The presentation demonstrates the importance of the region's forests for sustaining bird populations. A copy of this program may be obtained at no cost by requesting it

through our web site.

In a recent program for the town of Old Saybrook, we were able to make a strong case for the preservation of large tracts of coastal forest. We demonstrated that these coastal forests contain the majority of our wintering bird populations. Organizations from other towns, including Woodstock, Connecticut and West Greenwich, Rhode Island, are using our data in attempting to protect large parcels of forest in their areas.

Another recent consultation was for the Town of Portland, Connecticut. In this

case, we assisted in assessing the conservation status of endangered birds inhabiting the Wangunk Meadows area. Wangunk Meadows sits at the edge of the Connecticut valley, and consists of an ancient marsh and floodplain forest. The area is home to some of the region's most notable wetland bird species.

***“One of the missions of BCR is to provide technical assistance to towns and conservation organizations.”***

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# Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

## Membership

\$10 Electronic member  
(e-mail only) \$10  
 \$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 \_\_\_\_\_



***Take a bite out of BCR expenses by becoming a member.***



## MEMBERSHIP

It is time once again for our annual membership campaign. Members form the backbone of our organization, and provide a significant portion of our annual operating funds.

Membership has doubled over the past few years, and in order for us to expand our programs we hope to double it again. Please help BCR by becoming

a member. Membership applications and payment options are available at [www.birdconservationresearch.org](http://www.birdconservationresearch.org).