

BIRD CONSERVATION

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WINTER SURVEYS OF CENTRAL CONNECTICUT



The sparsely forested landscapes of central Connecticut are the subject of this winter's surveys.

The sixth season of winter bird studies will begin this December with the survey of central Connecticut. The surveys will cover 390 sampling stations on 26 transects, and these transects are spaced from the Massachusetts border to Long Island Sound.

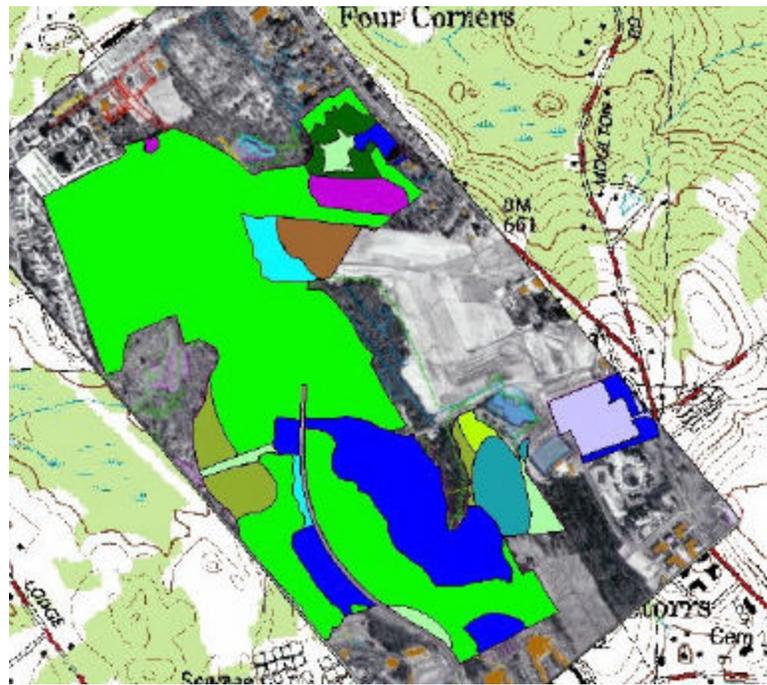
Previous years' winter sur-

veys in eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island have documented broad patterns of species accumulation from north to south, with forests close to Long Island Sound having the highest diversity of species and highest density of individuals..

This winter's surveys will

be covering habitats that differ in some important ways from these earlier surveys. Central Connecticut has areas of extensive floodplains along the Connecticut and Quinnipiac Rivers, and forest tracts in general are smaller and more isolated than their eastern counterparts.

HABITATS MAPPED



Geographic Information Systems technology permits referencing of topographic maps to aerial photos for habitat mapping.

“One of the roles of BCR is to provide technical assistance to agencies and organizations.”

One of the roles of BCR is to provide technical assistance to agencies and organizations. This summer, we provided such assistance to the University of Connecticut, which required data on wildlife and habitats at its North Campus.

Using procedures from the Forest Bird Survey of Southern New England, we developed population estimates for forest birds inhabiting North Campus. We also prepared a habitat map using Geographic Information Systems technology. GIS, as it is known, is a powerful tool that permits maps to be drawn on aerial photographs through use of computer analysis of the photographic image. Data such as these assist

with developing land use plans that consider not only standard engineering and natural resource criteria (like soil types), but also

wildlife distributions and wildlife habitats.



The Carolina Wren is primarily a coastal species, although its range also extends up the Connecticut Valley.

STUDENT RESEARCH



Lauren Nutter, 2006 Student Intern, began the process of computing bird population densities from BCR's latest data.

High school students who complete a year of advanced placement calculus are generally considered ready to begin third semester calculus when they begin college. Because they possess these advanced mathematical skills, students who have completed AP calculus have proven to be ideal interns for BCR.

This past spring, our interns not only labored to compile and check field data on bird occurrences and habitat conditions, they also began work on conducting the kinds of sophisticated analyses required to turn field data into population estimates. Doing so involves an understanding of the advanced mathematical concepts covered in AP calculus courses, such as maximum-minimum applications of derivatives and techniques for finding the area under a curve. These

efforts are continuing with this fall's crop of interns.

In addition to high level data analysis, other students have been involved in learning how to gather the types of field data required for these analyses. Teams of students performed such tasks as using global positioning technology to locate sample points. This fall, students are also using their combined lab and field skills to develop a video production that will document the procedures and accomplishments of the Forest Bird Survey. They are involved in every step of this process from script writing to editing. This pilot project will be refined and enhanced over the coming years so that educational programming can be developed.



Students involved in locating study plots through use of global positioning.

“Our interns ... also began work on conducting the kinds of sophisticated analyses required to turn field data into population estimates.”

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Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

Membership

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___ \$50 Sustaining member
___ \$100 Contributor
___ \$250 Patron
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benefactor

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Address _____

Town _____

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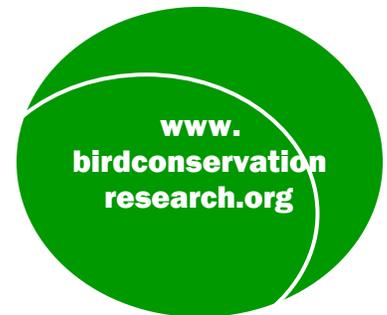
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Asst. Director Anthony checks out ducks, for which he uses the more technical term gucks, at Rocky Neck St. Pk.



MEMBERSHIP

Members form the backbone of our organization, and provide a significant portion of our annual operating funds. In order for us to expand our programs we

need your continued support..

Please help BCR by becoming a member. Membership applications and pay-

ment options are available at www.birdconservationresearch.org.