

# BIRD CONSERVATION

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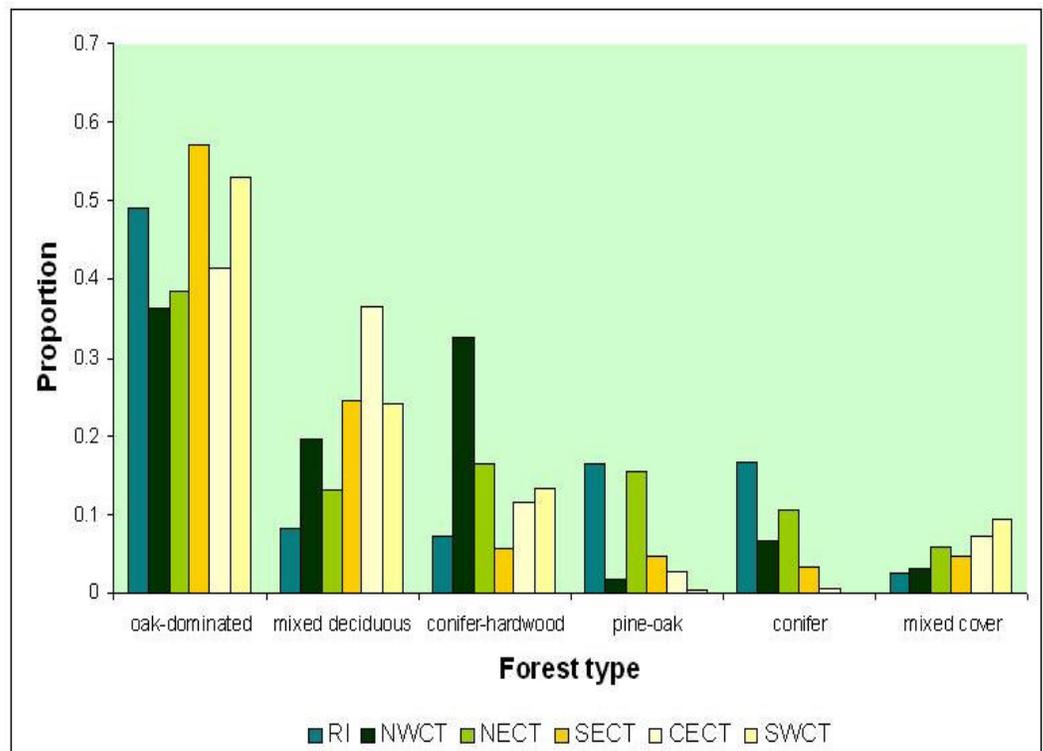
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## AVIAN HABITAT SURVEYS OF CONNECTICUT AND RHODE ISLAND COMPLETE



This graph compares forest types present in each of the regions studied by the *Forest Bird Survey of Southern New England*.

In addition to its eight year long project to map the density distribution of the region's forest bird-the *Forest Bird Survey*

*of Southern New England* also conducted habitat surveys along its 2220 census points. The survey examined field condi-

tions in 3417 ha of forest, a sample nearly 100 times that of periodic U.S. For-

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# FOREST HABITATS— CONTINUED



**This gnarled, spreading oak from the coastal forests of Rhode Island is typical of trees that inhabit the region.**

***“The survey examined field conditions in 3417 ha of forest.”***

*(Continued from page 1)*

est Service surveys in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Like the Forest Service surveys, BCR studies evaluated proportionate cover of major forest types. In addition, we examined forest canopy cover, prevailing tree diameter, understory density, moisture regime, and elevation. The data are to be used to seek relationships between habitat distributions and distributions of forest bird densities.

Analysis of cover types

shows that the forests of Rhode Island (RI in the graph) are dominated by xeric oak and conifer associations. Northeast Connecticut (NECT) most resembles Rhode Island in its forest composition; both these regions are extensively underlain by glacial sand and gravel.

The locations most heavily dominated by oak forests are Southeast (SECT) and Southwest (SWCT) Connecticut, where lower elevations and milder climates prevail. Central Connecticut (CECT) also has a high proportion of oak

forests, but has as well extensive cover by more mesic-associated mixed deciduous forests. Much of the remaining forest in heavily urbanized central Connecticut is indeed in wetter environments.

Northwest Connecticut (NWCT), with the most mountainous terrain in southern New England, has less cover by oaks and more cover by conifer-hardwood forests. Such forests are generally associated with cooler, northern climates.

# SUCCESSION VIDEO IN PRODUCTION



**The meadow stage, as it appears here in winter, is one of the seral stages described in the upcoming video on plant succession.**

The final contribution from our first generation of video productions is entitled **Succession**. It details the process of plant community development that is typical of secondary successional sequences in southern New England.

Succession is a more-or-less orderly process in nature in which recognizable stages- seral stages- may be recognized. These stages appear in a predictable se-

quence.

When complete, the video will trace the development of natural communities from abandonment of a farm field through the following stages: 1) weedy field, 2) meadow, 3) old field, 4) young forest, 5) mature forest and 6) old growth.

In addition to the plant life present in developing communities, animal life inhabiting the various seral stages will also be highlighted. Interactions

between animal and plant life are also explored.

As with the other videos in this series, it will be made available for free download from the BCR web site upon its completion.

***“The final contribution from our first generation of video productions is entitled Succession.”***

# COMPUTATIONS OF BIRD DENSITIES NOW COMPLETE

***“The daunting task of computing the population densities of each species of bird inhabiting the forest of southern New England is now complete.”***



**Summering Red-breasted Nuthatches were found most commonly in the conifer forests of Rhode Island and northern Connecticut.**

The daunting task of computing the population densities of each species of bird inhabiting the forest of southern New England is now complete. In all, densities of 79 species have been computed.

Densities have also been estimated for each of six regions in Connecticut and Rhode Island. In addition, each of our 148 survey transect has had densities calculated for

species present on each. These latter figures are used to generate regional maps of population density distributions.

A preview of one additional set of density computations follows:

**American Goldfinch  
Summer:**

Northeast CT: 40,806  
Southeast CT: 48,454  
Central CT: 64,198  
Northwest CT: 37,001  
Southwest CT: 32,070

Rhode Island: 57,505  
**Winter:**

Northeast CT: 15,961  
Southeast CT: 55,407  
Central CT: 54,075  
Northwest CT: 17,741  
Southwest CT: 41,674  
Rhode Island: 38,823

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# Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

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*Help us count our chickens...*

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[com/1nqlss](http://www.gofundme.com/1nqlss).

If you are presently a member, you will still receive a renewal form by mail. Membership applications and contribution

options are also available at [www.birdconservation-research.org](http://www.birdconservation-research.org)