

BIRD CONSERVATION

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ESKIMO CURLEW STUDY



Eskimo Curlews exhibiting extremes in plumage differences.

With examination of the specimen holdings at the U.S. National Museum and Yale Peabody Museum, our investigations into the external features of the Eskimo Curlew are drawing to a close. To date, we have examined

86 specimens that were collected in spring, summer, fall and winter. On each, we have made a series of measurements and also taken photographs of breast, wing and back plumage.

To examine differences in

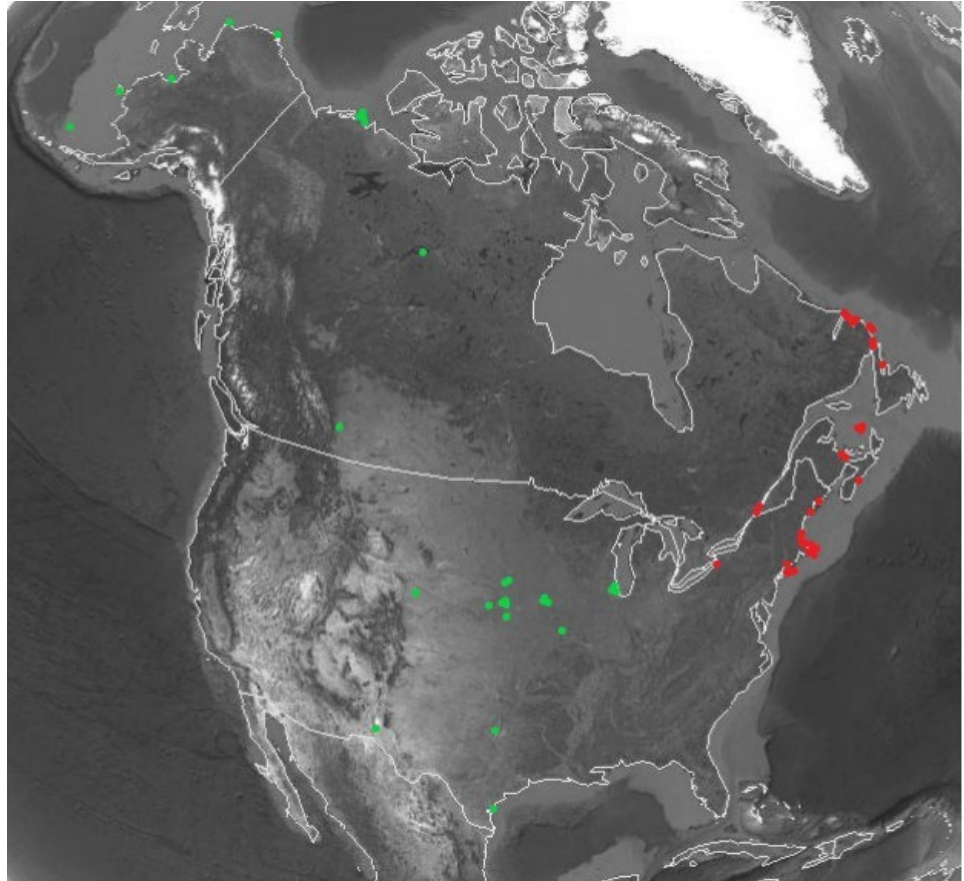
measurements, we used a statistical technique called discriminant function analysis. This technique allows us to examine all measurements simultaneously. Doing so has permitted us to conclude that males significantly

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ESKIMO CURLEW

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“Five late May specimens from Alaska provide evidence for a previously unconfirmed breeding population there...”



Spring (green) and fall (red) specimen locations for Eskimo Curlews.

differ from females in particularly bill and tail length. We found no seasonal differences in measurements, however. We are still working on comparing measurements of adults and juveniles.

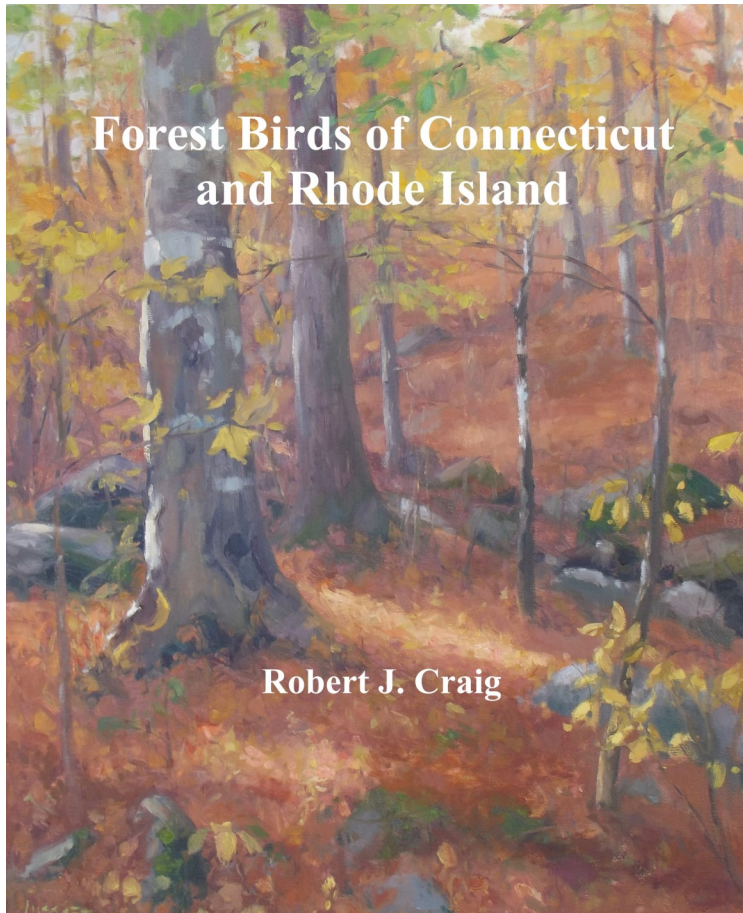
To determine identity of adults and juveniles, we are scoring each specimen for a number of plumage traits, including shape, color, size and density of breast markings, feather edging of wing coverts and extent of spotting on

back and scapular feathers. Although this investigation is still ongoing, it so far appears that traditionally used means of aging individuals do not hold up to careful scrutiny.

In addition to examining specimens themselves, we are also studying the location data attached to each individual. As traditionally thought, fall migration occurs principally through the Northeast, whereas spring migration occurs through the Great Plains.

Five late May specimens from Alaska provide evidence for a previously unconfirmed breeding population there, whereas specimens from western New York and Montreal provide evidence for a hypothesized fall migration corridor through the northeastern United States.

FOREST BIRD BOOK GOING TO PRINT



Last chance to sponsor a species.

Forest Birds of Connecticut and Rhode Island is presently available as an open source document through our publishing partner, [Arts and Academic Publishing](#). It will soon be available in print form as well, and before it is we wish to notify all that this is the final opportunity for

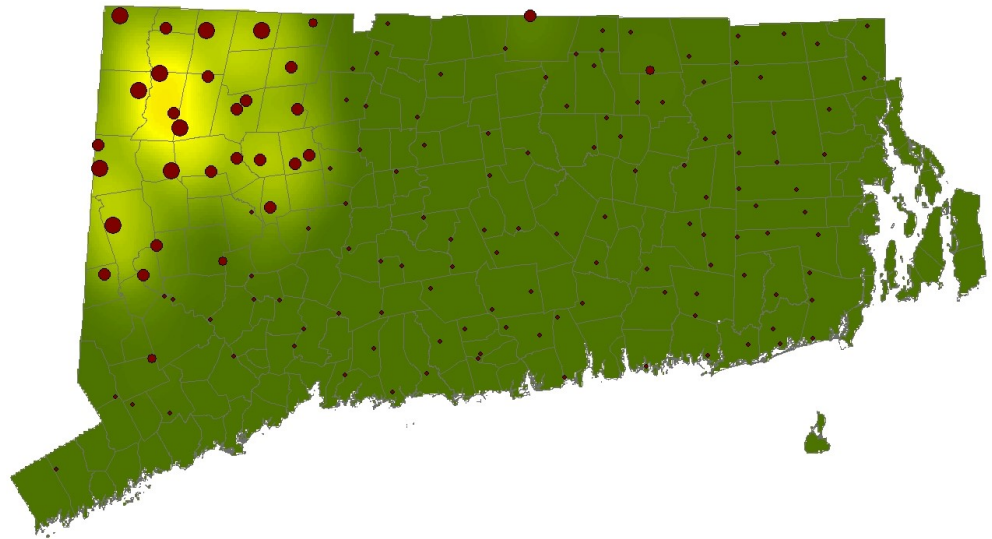
sponsoring a species.

Individuals who sponsor species have their name added to the text under the species account that they choose. They also receive a complimentary copy of the print version of the book. To sponsor a species, go to our [GoFundMe](#) page or send an [email](#) to us at BCR.

Once printed, this version will be available through *Arts and Academic* for purchase, although the open source version will still be available for download.

“To sponsor a species, go to our GoFundMe page or send an email to us at BCR.”

FOREST BIRD MAPS



The summer population density map for the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker shows a breeding concentration in northwestern Connecticut, although a few breeding concentrations in northeastern Connecticut are visible as well.

“These maps will be tools for land use and conservation planning across the region.”

The companion to the **Forest Birds of Connecticut and Rhode Island** text will be maps of the summer and winter distributions of these birds. Its author is Kyle Arvisais of the University of Maine forestry program, who has worked with BCR Director Craig in bringing the project to completion.

This series of maps will provide the first ever view of the distribution of species' population densities by knitting together data gathered during the eight years of the study. Although

combining data from multiple years does not account for potential year-to-year variation in populations, previous studies by BCR have demonstrated that such variation is small compared to regional variation.

In addition to maps for individual species, maps of community characteristics will also be produced. These include maps of habitat features as well as those of cumulative species richness and population densities.

These maps will be tools for land use and

conservation planning across the region. Before this study, there were no high level, quantitative data available for the wildlife resources of the region.

FIELD STATION UPDATE



This White Ash is one of eight cut down this late winter as part of the field station's habitat management program.

Work is progressing on our efforts to manage habitats at our field station in Pomfret, CT. Late winter efforts have focused on removing dead and dying White Ashes so that they may be replaced with species that are more attractive to wildlife. White Ash, although itself a valuable tree species for wildlife, is succumbing locally to a variety of diseases and insect pests. Particularly conifers and heavily flowering and fruiting

species are being examined as replacements.

Another even larger effort is being directed at removing alien vines and shrubs from the borders of our agricultural fields. In particular, the invasive Asiatic Amelopsis and Asiatic Bittersweet vines are being removed, along with such pest shrubs as Multiflora Rose, Russian Olive, European Privet, Japanese Barberry and Burning Bush.

We are presently investigating replacement species for our field borders, including our various native azalea, aronia, viburnum, blueberry and grape species.

“Another even larger effort is being directed at removing alien vines and shrubs from the borders of our agricultural fields.”

The Newsletter of
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Bird

Conservation Research, Inc.

Membership

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This spring migrant Pied-billed Grebe is calling out to you to become a member.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not yet become a member of BCR, it is never too late. Memberships remain one of our principal means of funding for the projects

that we conduct, so please consider joining us. Membership applications and contribution options are available at

www.birdconservation-research.org. Species sponsorship information is available on page 1 of this newsletter.