

# BIRD CONSERVATION

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## FOREST BIRD POPULATION ESTIMATES NEARLY COMPLETE



**An opening along one of our forest transects displayed a profusion of wildflowers.**

**F**inal computations of the regional populations of Connecticut and Rhode Island's forest birds are presently un-

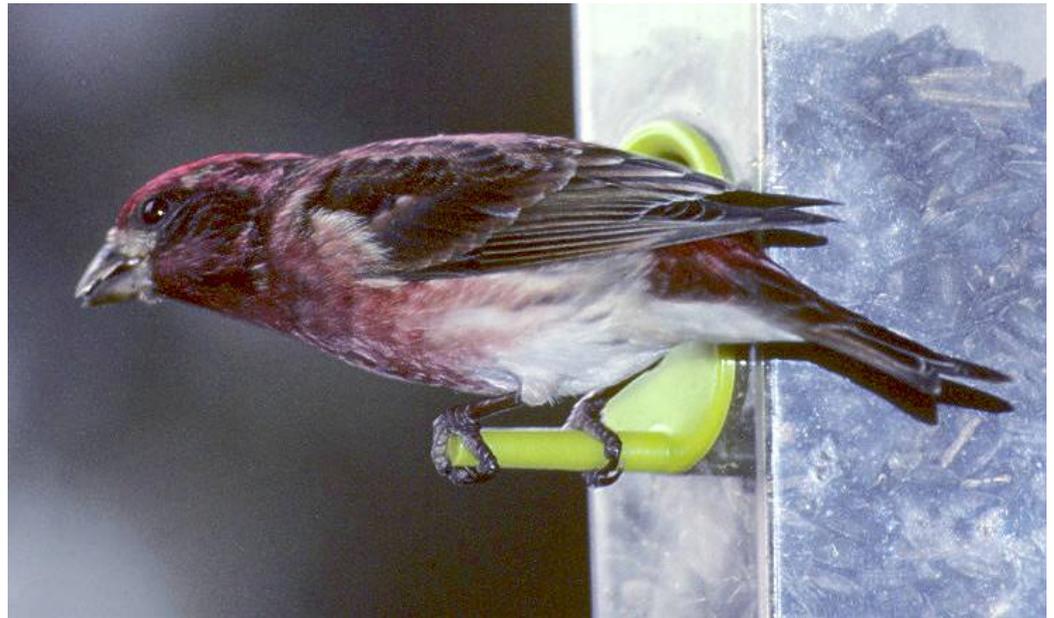
derway. This is, however, only one aspect of the ongoing analysis of the enormous quantities of data gathered during the

*Forest Bird Survey of Southern New England.* Upcoming analyses in-

*(Continued on page 2)*

# FOREST BIRDS— CONTINUED

**“Upcoming analyses include characterization of the habitats of Rhode Island and western Connecticut as well as analysis of the relationship between habitat and bird populations.”**



**The Purple Finch was an uncommon bird of coniferous forest openings in both Connecticut and Rhode Island.**

*(Continued from page 1)*

clude characterization of the habitats of Rhode Island and western Connecticut as well as analysis of the relationship between habitat and bird populations. When complete, our analyses will result in the publication of *Forest Birds of Connecticut and Rhode Island*.

Some of the most recently computed population estimates follow:

**Black-and-white Warbler:**

Northeast CT: 15,671

Southeast CT: 10,983  
Central CT: 10,829  
Northwest CT: 34,438  
Southwest CT: 9,480  
RI: 23,332

**Blackburnian Warbler:**

Northeast CT: 11,786  
Southeast CT: 2,910  
Central CT: 1539  
Northwest CT: 44,778  
Southwest CT: 747  
RI: 739

**Black-throated Green Warbler:**

Northeast CT: 15,373  
Southeast CT: 5,392  
Central CT: 4,861  
Northwest CT: 31,163  
Southwest CT: 4,511  
RI: 11,365

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:**

Northeast CT: 1,721  
Southeast CT: 0  
Central CT: 0  
Northwest CT: 6,413  
Southwest CT: 0  
RI: 2,878

**Magnolia Warbler:**

Northeast CT: 862  
Southeast CT: 425  
Central CT: 450  
Northwest CT: 6,772  
Southwest CT: 0  
RI: 0

# SALT MARSH VIDEO RELEASED



The salt marshes and adjacent upland borders of Barn Island, Stonington, Connecticut are highlighted in our latest video.

The salt marsh ecosystem and coastal-upland interface are the subjects of our most recent video release. This video is part of our series on New England habitats. Other productions of the series include *Bogs*, *Beaches* and *Floodplains*.

*Salt Marshes* explores the coastal vegetation zonation that develops as a consequence of tidal inundation, water salinity and coastal storms. As these physical influences diminish landward, different communities of plants appear

and are progressively replaced by others.

As the boundary between wetland and upland is reached, herbaceous marsh plants are replaced initially by a narrow fringe of upland grasses, which is then replaced by thickets of woody species. These latter two communities are among the least common of New England's natural habitats. Inland from the thickets, an open and somewhat stunted forest community called coastal forest develops.

The bird life of the salt marsh is investigated in the video as well, with representative species of the marsh and adjacent tidal mudflats depicted.

This video is the next-to-last one in our first generation of video productions. The last will be entitled *Plant Succession*, and plans call for its release later this year.

***“This video is the next-to-last one from our first generation of video productions***

***”***

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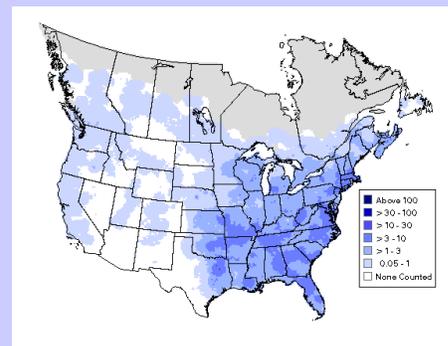
# ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE POWERPOINTS UPDATED

**“This series aligns with the national Advanced Placement Environmental Science curriculum.”**

## Observation-based Population Estimates

- Population estimates also may be made through observations only. These are either relative (yield comparative information on numbers) or absolute (yield density and total populations).
- Relative estimates are generally restricted to highly visible species like birds. Examples:
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service breeding bird survey-, all birds encountered by a single observer at points along 25 mile-long transects are tallied.
- Audubon Christmas bird counts- groups of observers tally all birds seen during 24 hr within a 15 mi wide circle.
- Information from such counts may show trends in species numbers over time or they may be used to map distributions (right).

Breeding distribution of the Downy Woodpecker



A slide from the PowerPoint presentation *Populations*, which is one of three presentations recently updated on the BCR web site.

Our very popular series of PowerPoint presentations for Advanced Placement Environmental Science is being updated and expanded. This series aligns with the national AP science curriculum.

To date, the newest ver-

sions of *Earth Systems and Resources*, *The Living World* and *Populations* have been posted to the BCR web site under the *Educators* tab. The presentations *Environmental Pollution* and *Land and Water Resources* will be updated over the next few

months.

In addition to these slide shows, a new one entitled *Energy Resources and Consumption* is planned for release during this year.

# BCR PARTICIPATES IN AVIAN SUMMIT



**At the 2012 Avian Summit, the Piping Plover was one of the species for which population monitoring and management action was discussed .**

**“The lead presentation of the December summit was by BCR.”**

The 2012 Avian Summit, hosted by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, was held at Fort Trumbull State Park, New London this past December. It was a gathering of those involved in Connecticut bird research and conservation.

The lead presentation of the December summit was by BCR. We provided an overview of current accomplishments of the *Forest Bird Survey of*

*Southern New England*. Our presentation may be viewed at the BCR web site under the Educators/PowerPoints tab.

In addition to sharing the three publications produced by the survey to date, *Forest Birds of the Last Green Valley*, *Seasonal shifts in population distributions and habitat occupancy by permanent resident forest birds in eastern Connecticut* and *Factors influencing geographic patterns in diversity of forest bird communities of eastern*

*Connecticut, USA*, we presented updates on population computations as well as an initial assessment of the effects of habitat fragmentation on forest bird communities.

Other topics discussed at the conference included updates on work to protect Connecticut's marsh and beach-nesting birds.

The Newsletter of  
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# Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

## Membership

- \$25 Regular member
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- \$100 Contributor
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## MEMBERSHIP

**B**ecoming a member of BCR has just become easier. You may now join or renew your membership by going to <http://www.gofundme.com/1nqlss>.

[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)