

# BIRD CONSERVATION

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## FOREST BIRD SURVEY PRODUCES ADDITIONAL POPULATION ESTIMATES



**Although often thought of as simply a back yard bird, the American Robin typically nests in trees and lives in forest edge and even forest interiors.**

Ongoing computations of bird populations continue to reveal a large scale view of bird densities across southern New England. We are now over half way through

calculating the populations of all forest species. The most recent population estimates are:

**Veery  
Summer (males):**

Northeast CT: 50,359  
Southeast CT: 34,537  
Central CT: 24,431  
Northwest CT: 65,345  
Southwest CT: 17,016  
Rhode Island: 36,693

*(Continued on page 2)*

# FOREST BIRDS- CONTINUED

**“We are now  
over half way  
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**Bald Eagles appeared on both summer and winter forest bird surveys.**

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Eastern Bluebird  
(forest populations  
only)**

**Summer (males):**

Northeast CT: 237  
Southeast CT: 1,403  
Central CT: 742  
Northwest CT: 248  
Southwest CT: 960  
Rhode Island: 713

**Winter (individuals):**

Northeast CT: 1,108  
Southeast CT: 1,871

Central CT: 1,732  
Northwest CT: 1,241  
Southwest CT: 960  
Rhode Island: 950

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

**Summer (individuals):**

Northeast CT: 17,258  
Southeast CT: 23,163  
Central CT: 11,559  
Northwest CT: 16,696  
Southwest CT: 12,111  
Rhode Island: 19,092

**Eastern Towhee**

**Summer (individuals):**

Northeast CT: 23,852  
Southeast CT: 19,272  
Central CT: 7,444  
Northwest CT: 9,252  
Southwest CT: 5,495  
Rhode Island: 34,033

# FIELD TRIPS



**The sedge marshes along Bigelow Brook in Union, CT are often productive for spring migrants.**

**A** mid-May field trip to Yale Forest in Union, CT was well attended and produced a large number of spring migrant birds, particularly warblers. The weather was perfect for a spring outing—cool enough in the early morning to keep the mosquitoes at bay in the notorious swampy environments of Boston Hollow and Bigelow Brook.

The highlights of the trip were Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Canada, Pine, Yellow-rumped, American Redstart, Black-and-white

Warblers, as well as Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes. Other notables were Common Raven, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Dark-eyed Junco. Many of these are northern-associated breeders that reach their southern range limit in the Yale Forest area.

An early fall trip is planned for the near future, so stay tuned. We are looking at visiting a

coastal location to catch migrating shorebirds and other fall shoreline specialties.

***“An early fall trip is planned for the near future, so stay tuned.”***

## Bird Conservation Research Blog

Recent news from Bird Conservation Research, Inc. about its work on the conservation of New England's birds and on the promotion of environmental education.



## THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOREST BIRDS

The *State of the Forest Birds*, a paper prepared by Bird Conservation Research, Inc. for the 2011 *Connecticut State of the Birds*, is now available through the Bird Conservation Contributions web site. The paper is newly abstracted and updated from its original version, and includes absolute population estimates for a number of species. The estimates are based on data gathered during the eight year Forest Bird Survey of Southern New England, which employed the variable circular plot technique to survey 148 transects in both summer and winter. Most notably, the data showed that several species thought to be rare in Connecticut, such as the Cerulean Warbler, had populations larger and more widespread than previously believed.

Here's the abstract from that paper:

**Abstract.** Connecticut's forest microhabitat variety is great, and this leads to higher bird diversity in forests than in any other terrestrial environment. To study this forest bird community, I conducted a systematic, quantitative summer-winter inventory of species to provide a view of population densities and distributions as well as of habitat affiliations, seasonal population shifts, diversity patterns and community responses to forest fragmentation. Over eight years, I observed that the community underwent profound shifts in composition in response to seasons, microclimate and structural habitat conditions. In a study of permanent residents, three of 10 species showed consistent, significant population declines, whereas one increased from summer to winter. Most species concentrated winter populations toward the coast. In a second study, diversity of wintering species strongly increased in regions of milder climates. Coastal forests appeared to be the state's principal winter reservoir for birds. In examination of other species' populations, some thought to be uncommon were surprisingly common and widespread, some declined since the 1970s and others increased over the same period. In order to maintain all bird species within Connecticut's forests it appeared that, at a minimum, all habitat types associated with forest must be represented in forest preserves.

(To view the complete transcript of this blog, go to <http://birdconservationresearch.blogspot.com/2012/06/state-of-connecticut-forest-birds.html>)

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# Bird Conservation Research, Inc.

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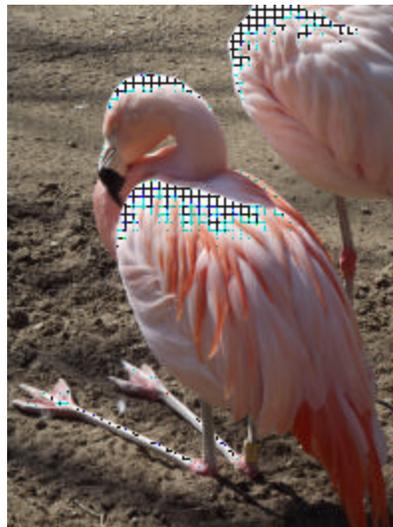
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public education activities. Membership applications and payment options are also available at [www.birdconservationresearch.org](http://www.birdconservationresearch.org).