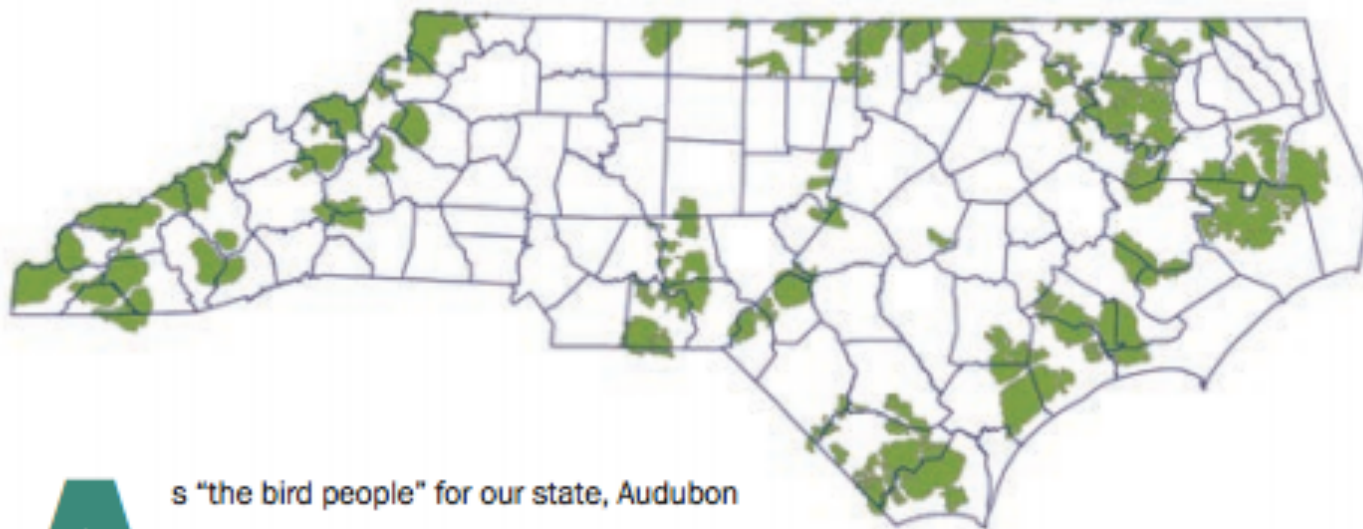


What is Audubon's vision for Working Lands in North Carolina?



As “the bird people” for our state, Audubon North Carolina has crafted an approach to forest management that protects and restores habitats for birds while simultaneously helping landowners enhance their property in cost-effective ways. Audubon is developing partnerships, training opportunities, management plans, and demonstration sites. We are collaborating with federal and state organizations that manage lands and provide funding to private landowners to support environmentally sound practices, especially those that benefit birds.

Working with private landowners is a critical piece of the Working Lands initiative as 61% of North Carolina's 18.4 million acres of forest lands is privately owned. Ninety percent of that acreage is contained in parcels of less than 50 acres and private lands comprise about twenty percent of the total acreage of North Carolina's Important Bird Areas. For a virtual tour of our IBAs visit www.ncaudubonblog.org.

Curtis Smalling, Director of Land Bird Conservation for Audubon North Carolina, is reaching out to private landowners to help them develop cost-effective strategies for making their properties more bird-friendly. Curtis is meeting with landowners, assessing their property and its birdlife, and writing management plans that provide strategies for maintaining or restoring bird-friendly habitats as well as suggesting sources of funding and tax incentives for management activities. Audubon plans to expand this program across North Carolina, focusing most intensively on blocks of forest where we will have the greatest impact on songbird populations now and in the future. Audubon North Carolina intends to write or influence management plans for 50,000 acres in the state by 2016.

If you're interested in finding out if your property is located within a priority forest block and how you can help manage it for birds and wildlife please contact Curtis Smalling at csmalling@audubon.org.