Foresters for the Birds
an Overview
The Need For A Conversation
Why and What to Consider

- What conditions support the range of needs of a range of priority taxa?
- What is the status of the forested landscape with respect to such conditions?
- How might such conditions be promoted/managed for at the stand/tract level?
- Where within the landscape should we be striving to achieve such conditions?
- How does meeting population objectives for birds relate to achieving both the "desired" extent and juxtaposition of such conditions across the landscape?
- And, how do we help partners overcome obstacles to delivering necessary mgt/actions?
Goals

Have uniform criteria for comparing the importance of different forest blocks throughout the Atlantic Flyway for supporting bird populations (prioritizing our work)

Satisfy A3 and B3 IBA criteria (species assemblage criteria)

- Biome restricted ones (>80% of pop) (A3)
- BCR restricted ones (>30% of pop, or PIF CS or RS ranking) (B3)
- State level assemblages (D3)
Analysis

- Define polygons (put lines on maps)
  - Use Wildness Index scores (>= 19 out of 30)
  - Only include areas of > 1200 a
- Assess value of each block
  - Index of four components
    - Total Forest Cover
    - Forest intactness (% forest cover within polygon)
    - Bird richness (number of target species for biome or BCR)
    - Bird abundance (relative no. of individuals of target species)
- Rank blocks
  - Within biome
  - Within BCR
  - Within subregion of BCR (FIA supersection)
  - Within state portion of subregion of BCR
Measures a variety of factors including:

1. Population Density
2. Distance to Roads
3. Uncontrolled Process - (Fragmentation, Hydro function, Distance to Edge)
4. Natural Composition
5. Urbanization (Built Environment)
6. Pollution (EPA, NASA)

Evaluated on a scale score of 0-30
Wildness >19 for further evaluation (Atlantic Flyway BCAs)
Forest Cover from Northeast and Southeast GAP Projects

Used combination of regional GAP products for higher resolution and more recent coverage

All forest covered rolled together for forest metrics.
Eastern Biome Priority Forest Bird

Acadian Flycatcher
Blue-winged Warbler
Carolina Chickadee
Cerulean Warbler
Eastern Towhee
Hooded Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush
Wood Thrush
Worm-eating Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Bachman's Sparrow
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Chuck-will's-widow
Florida Scrub-Jay
Pine Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Red-shouldered Hawk
Swainson's Warbler
Tufted Titmouse
White-eyed Vireo
BCR28: Appalachian Mountains
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Carolina Chickadee
- Cerulean Warbler
- Chimney Swift
- Downy Woodpecker
- Eastern Towhee
- Hooded Warbler
- Indigo Bunting
- Kentucky Warbler
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Scarlet Tanager
- Wood Thrush
- Worm-eating Warbler
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Yellow-throated Warbler
BBS data: Wood Thrush
Biomes and BCRs

From Partners in Flight, Landbird Conservation Plan
Approximately 35 million acres of priority forest

Audubon hopes to educate the managers of 5 million acres of forest within priority blocks by 2017 and have bird friendly management plans written and committed to on 500,000 acres of priority forest.
All NC Priority Blocks
Some Background...

- North Carolina 2015 SWAP
- Partners in Flight State of the Birds 2016 High Priority
- USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern
- Audubon and ABC Watchlist

Responsibility Species – Those with more than 5% of their estimated global population in NC.

NC Population Estimate

24.4%
Wood Thrush
Wood Thrush

Hyllocichla mustelina

Map and data prepared by the Southeast State Naturalists Project at The Bird Conservancy's Stable Identification Center, North Carolina State University.
Scarlet Tanager
Scarlet Tanager

Piranga olivacea

Known Range
- Summer
- Winter
- Year-round

Predicted Habitat
- Summer
- Winter
- Year-round

65,500
Ovenbird
Ovenbird

Ovenbird
Seiurus aurocapilla

271,000
Hooded Warbler
Hooded Warbler

Wilsonia citrina

Known Range
- Summer
- Winter
- Year-round

Predicted Habitat
- Summer
- Winter
- Year-round

Map and data prepared by the Southeast Gap Analysis Project at The Ecosystems & Spatial Information Center, North Carolina State University.

7.3%
333,000
Prothonotary Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler

17.1%

265,000
Northern Parula
Northern Parula

532,000
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
*Coccyzus americanus*

236,000
Red-shouldered Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk

*Buteo lineatus*

**Known Range**
- Summer
- Winter
- Year-round

**Predicted Habitat**
- Summer
- Winter
- Year-round

52,000
Pileated Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker

65,000
Eastern Wood-pewee
Eastern Wood-pewee

265,000
Indigo Bunting
Indigo Bunting

Passerina cyanea

4,511,000

5.8%
Eastern Towhee
Eastern Towhee

*bEATO*
Eastern Towhee
*Pipilo erythropthalmus*

Known Range
- Summer
- Winter
- Year-round

Predicted Habitat
- Summer
- Winter
- Year-round

Map data prepared by the Southeast Data Analyst Project. For more information, visit: [SE-DAP Project](https://www.southeastdataanalytoproject.org).
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch

**Sitta pusilla**

Known Range: Summer, Winter, Year-round

Predicted Habitat: Summer, Winter, Year-round

14.0%

156,000
Priority Species Management Can Help Dozens of Other Species!

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