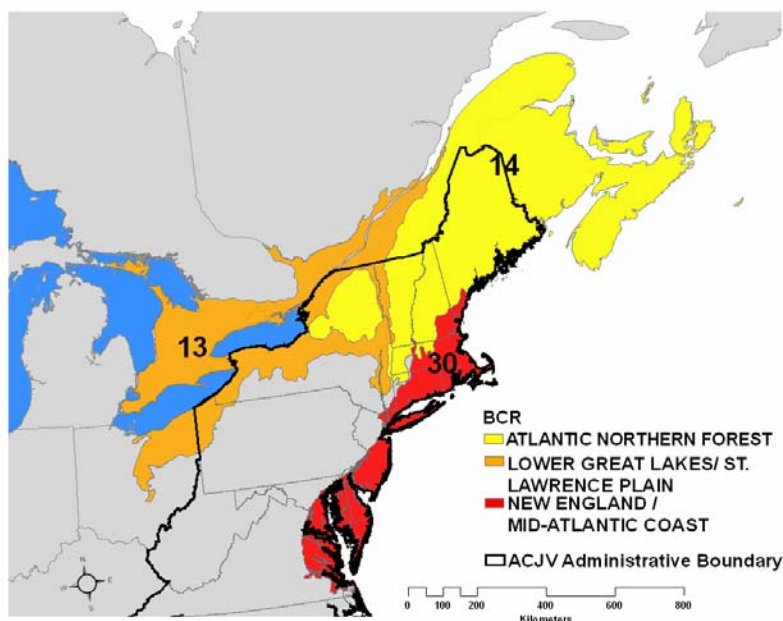


## Atlantic Northern Forest Bird Conservation Region (BCR 14) Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

### BCR Description and Priorities

The Atlantic Northern Forest BCR encompasses a geographic area stretching southwest to northeast, from the Taconic Hills of eastern New York, western Massachusetts, and the Adirondack Mountains, through most of northern New England (i.e., Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine), Quebec, south of the St. Lawrence River including the Gaspé Peninsula, and all of the Maritime provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. The region hosts a wealth of forest and wetland resources that support an incredible diversity and abundance of birds. Habitats range from low coastal plains to high Appalachian peaks, but most of the region is low mountainous or open hilly country interspersed with valleys and plains and covered with northern hardwood or spruce-fir forests. The BCR provides critically important habitat for a wide variety of bird species that breed, migrate, and over-winter in the region.



The BCR is especially important for Bicknell’s Thrush, which has nearly its entire breeding population occurring in the region’s mountaintop conifer forests. Other high priority birds include Bay-breasted Warbler, Wood Thrush, American Woodcock, American Black Duck, Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Piping Plover, Common Eider, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Greater Shearwater, and Red-necked Phalarope. These species occupy a wide range of habitats, including mature forests, early successional habitats, freshwater wetlands, saltmarshes, other coastal habitats, and the open ocean.

### Conservation Design Approach

*Existing Tools.* Conservation design tools will greatly enhance the ability of BCR partners to coordinate a comprehensive implementation effort to meet a diverse set of habitat goals for the array of high priority species. Partners have assembled several basic components needed for undertaking conservation design in the BCR, including maps of general landcover types, ecological land units developed by The Nature Conservancy, protected lands, and preliminary spatially-explicit models of species-specific habitats across the BCR.

## Conservation Design

*Needed Tools.* Additional tools will need to be developed and applied for the process of conservation design to be realized, particularly for forest habitats and forest-associated birds, including the full suite of successional stages and myriad forest types. Methods incorporating bird-habitat models, forest growth simulations, and collective knowledge of management prescriptions on both public and private lands will need to be developed to identify specific areas or landscapes within the BCR where habitat for priority forest-associated landbirds can be maintained on a long-term basis. For example, given the dynamic nature of the BCR's industrial forests, partners may need to develop a framework for conservation actions for the "working forest" across broad spatial and temporal scales. The framework would amount to a shifting mosaic for maintaining adequate amounts of habitat for several suites of priority species.

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