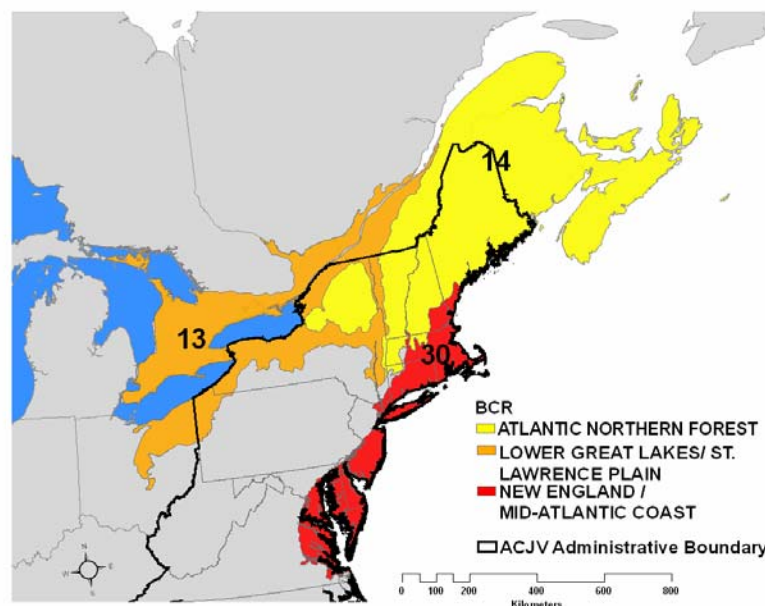




## New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast Bird Conservation Region (BCR 30) Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

### BCR Description and Priorities

The New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast, BCR 30, has the densest human population of any region in the U.S. The highest priority birds in the BCR are associated with coastal wetlands and beaches, including the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, American Black Duck, and Black Rail. The same habitats are critical migratory stopover sites for Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Dunlin. Coastal islands are also an important habitat for breeding seabirds, such as terns and gulls, and large mixed colonies of herons, egrets, and ibis. Estuaries and bays behind barrier beaches are extremely important to wintering and migrating waterfowl, including approximately 65 percent of the total wintering population of the American Black Duck, along with large numbers of many other species.



### Conservation Design Approach

*Habitat Assessments.* A number of conservation design efforts are underway in BCR 30. The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture has compiled a number of basic GIS habitat data layers for the BCR and the rest of the Atlantic Flyway. A Regional Gap Analysis, to develop detailed habitat maps, is nearing completion in the southeast and is currently underway in the northeast. The Center for Conservation Biology, at the College of William and Mary, completed a [Habitat Assessment](#) of priority habitats for conservation lands in BCR 30, which included more than 25,000 patches and 650,000 ha of land within 1,300 independently managed parcels. This project also provides a critical parameters matrix to project the status and distribution of numerous priority bird species. Visit [http://www.ccb-wm.org/habitat/habitat\\_home.cfm](http://www.ccb-wm.org/habitat/habitat_home.cfm) for more information. Current projects also include use of radar technology to assess the relative importance of different migratory stopover habitats — a critical information need. A working group of partners, which is planning for future conservation design work in the BCR, is currently compiling available information and GIS data for ongoing projects.

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## Conservation Design

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*SWAP Bird Conservation Database.* States throughout the Atlantic Flyway recently completed State Wildlife Action Plans, many of which include some elements of conservation design. These plans reinforce the suite of species of highest conservation concern within the region, recognize the importance of particular habitat types, such as the coastal habitats mentioned above, and describe various conservation approaches and strategies. Efforts are currently underway to develop a database of bird conservation information from all the State Wildlife Action Plans within the region to better coordinate activities at the BCR scale.

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