



Northern Forest Birds Network News

Ryan Brady, Wisconsin DNR

Interim Network Coordinator, 2021-23

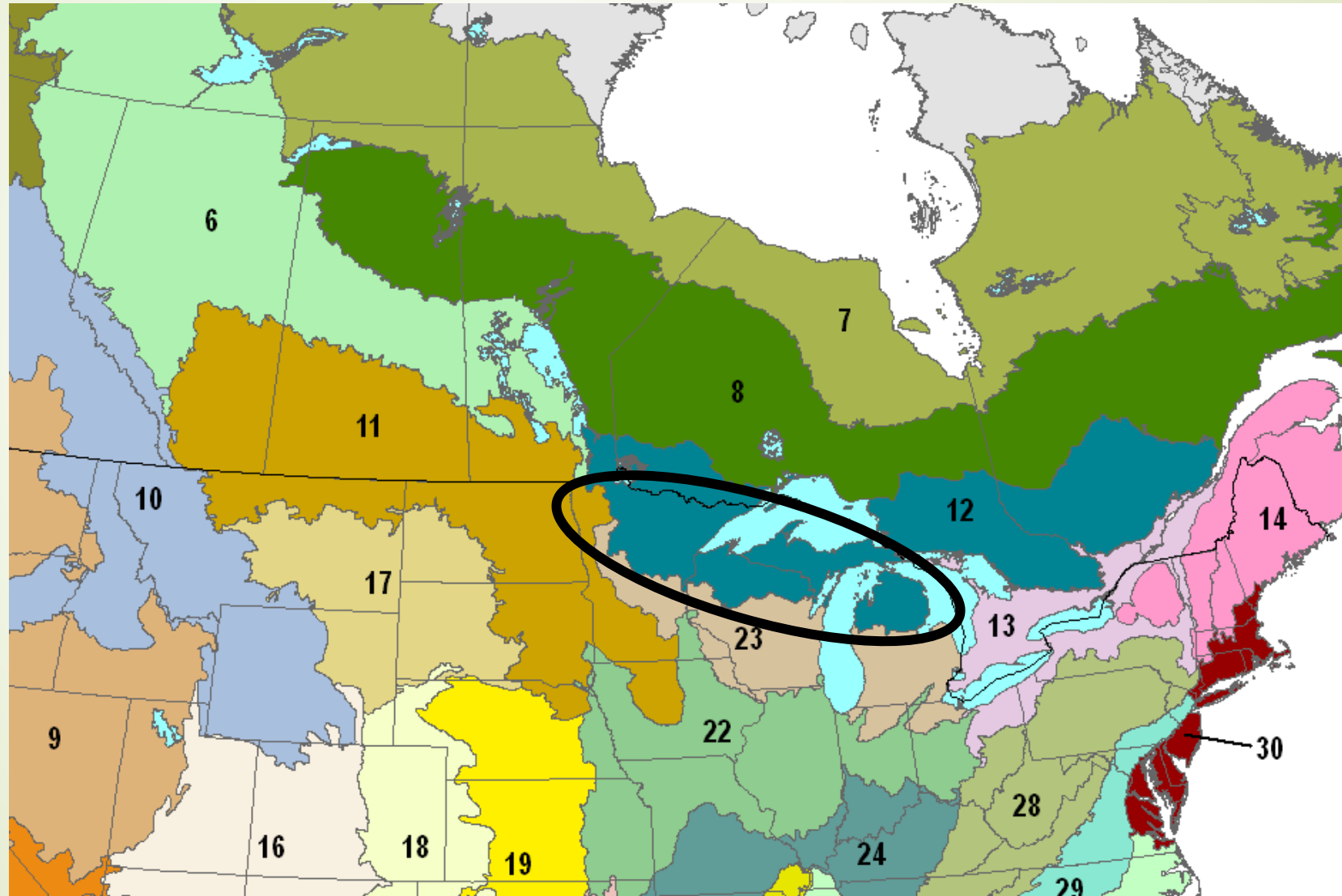


Northern Forest Birds Network

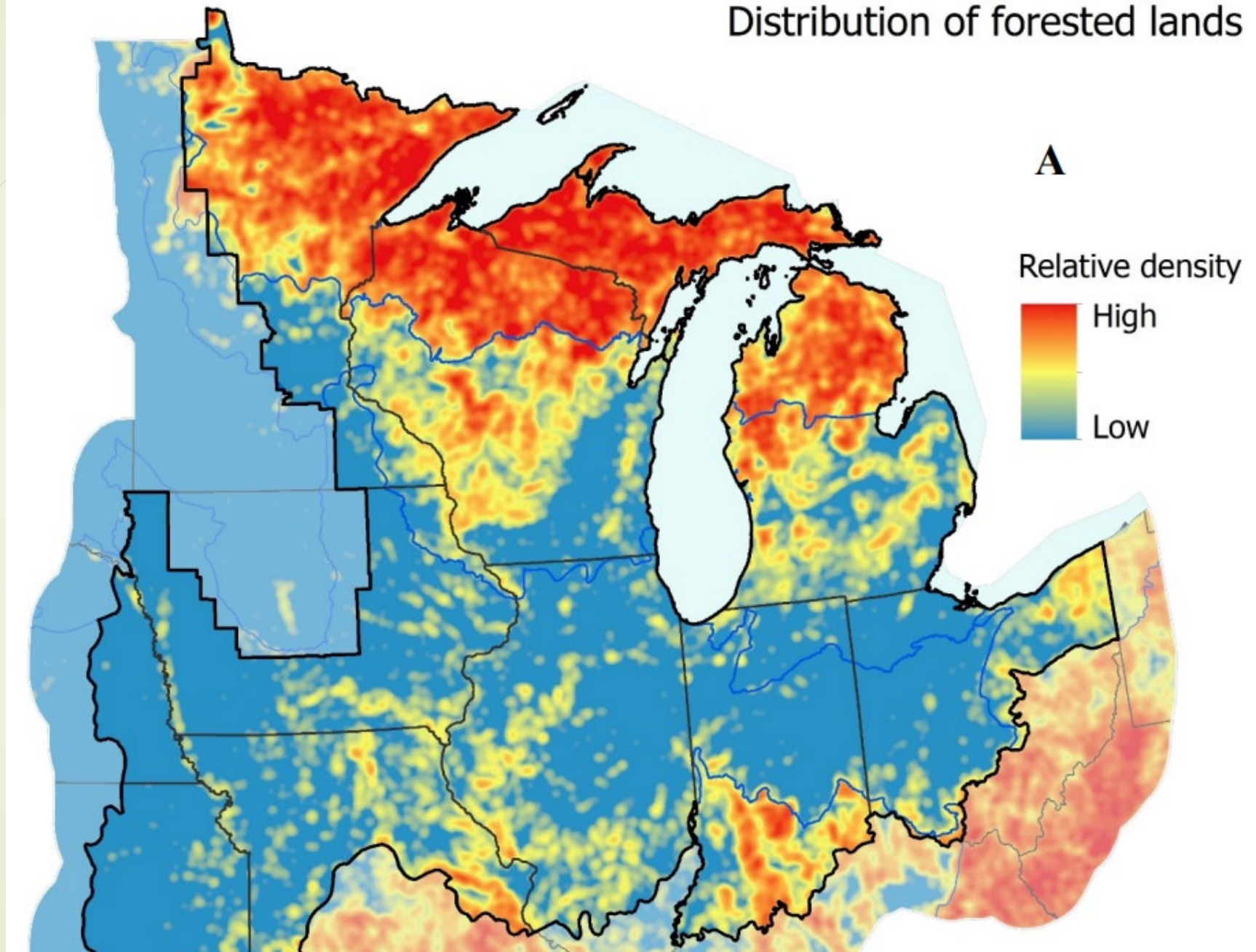
"Our leadership and guidance in monitoring, research, and management actions ensure thriving, diverse northern forest bird communities across the U.S. portion of Bird Conservation Region 12."

Since 2013...

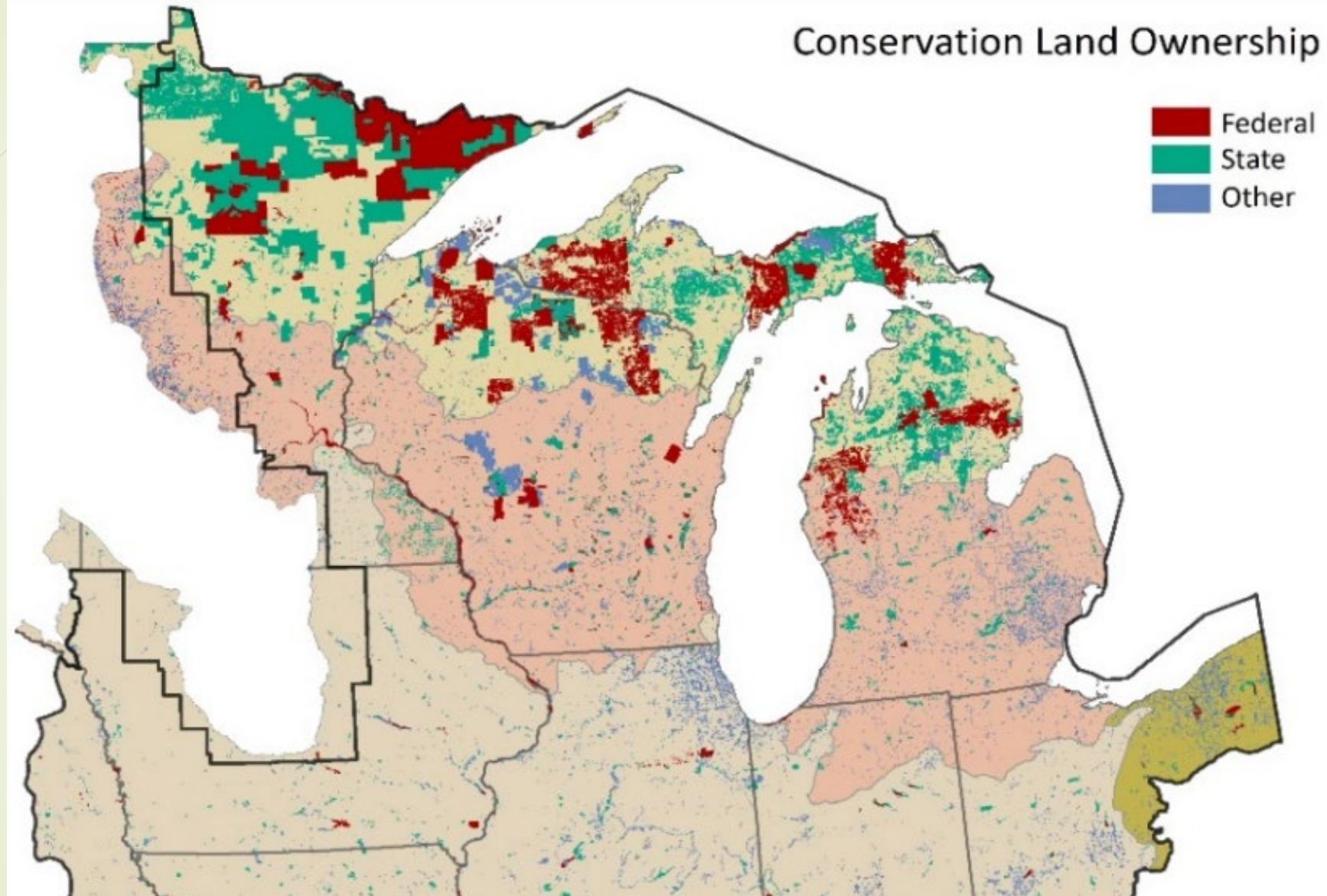
Bird Conservation Regions



Distribution of forested lands



Conservation Land Ownership



Network Goals:



Northern forest bird conservation and research organizations actively share information about the biology, ecology, and status of northern forest birds.



Northern forest bird conservation organizations coordinate and collaborate to ensure that the conservation needs of northern forest birds are addressed.



The best available science is used to assess the status and productivity of northern forest birds.



Monitoring and research data are used to inform and evaluate management practices, which are used to deliver conservation actions that benefit northern forest birds.

Last Time We Gathered ~ Ashland 2018







Since Then...



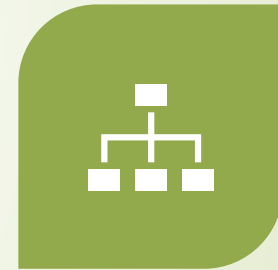
SCIENCE



COMMUNICATION



EDUCATION



HABITAT
MANAGEMENT

Priority Species-Habitat Matrix



| Species | Bird Population Assessments | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | PIF Regional Priority for UMGL JV (BCR 12) | PIF Watch List Species (BCR 12)* | PIF Regional Stewardship Species | UMGL JV 2020 Focal Species | SGCN-MN | SGCN-WI | SGCN-MI |
| Kirtland's Warbler | x | x | x | x | | x | x |
| Golden-winged Warbler | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | x | x | | | x | | |
| Canada Warbler | x | x | | x | | | |
| Least Flycatcher* | x | | | | | x | |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | x | | | x | x | x | x |
| Wood Thrush | x | | | x | x | | |
| Connecticut Warbler | x | x | | | x | x | |
| Evening Grosbeak | x | x | | | x | x | |
| Broad-winged Hawk | | | x | | | | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | x | | | | |
| Ovenbird | | | x | | | | |
| Nashville Warbler | | | x | | | | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | x | | | | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | x | | | | |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | x | | x | | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | x | | | | |
| Northern Goshawk | | | | | x | x | x |
| Swainson's Thrush | | | | | | x | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | | | | x | x | |
| Canada Jay | | | | | | x | |
| Winter Wren | | | | | x | | |

Priority Species-Habitat Matrix

| Species | Bird Population Assessments | | | | | | | Forest Habitat Types | | | | | | Forest Successional Stages | | | | Special Considerations | | | |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|---|--|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | PIF Regional Priority for UMGL JV (BCR 12) | PIF Watch List Species (BCR 12)* | PIF Regional Stewardship Species | UMGL JV 2020 Focal Species | SGCN-MN | SGCN-WI | SGCN-MI | Northern Wet Mesic Forest (white cedar, black ash, balsam fir) | Lowland Conifer (e.g., black spruce, tamarack, bogs) | Northern Mesic Forest (i.e., mixed hardwoods, hemlock, aspen/birch) | Northern Dry Mesic Forest (e.g., pine, oak, red maple) | Northern Xeric Forest (i.e., jack pine) | Wet Shrublands (e.g. Alder) | Young Forest (Stand Establishment) | Forest Openings | Single Canopy Layer with Low Structural Diversity | Closed Canopy with High Structural Diversity | Requires Large Forest Tracts/ May Be Sensitive to Fragmentation | Requires Conifer Component | Stand Decadence (snags, downed wood, dead limbs, large cavities) | Climate Change Indicator / Sensitive |
| Kirtland's Warbler | x | x | x | x | | x | x | | | | x | x | | x | x | x | | x | x | | |
| Golden-winged Warbler | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | x | | | x | x | | | | | | | T |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | x | x | | | x | | | | | x | x | | x | x | x | | | | | | T |
| Canada Warbler | x | x | | x | | | | x | x | | | | | | | | x | x | x | | T |
| Least Flycatcher* | x | | | | | x | | | | x | x | | | | | x | | | | | T |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | x | | | x | x | x | x | | | x | x | x | | | x | x | x | | | | E |
| Wood Thrush | x | | | x | x | | | | | x | | | | | | | x | x | | | T |
| Connecticut Warbler | x | x | | | x | x | | | x | x | | x | | | | | x | x | x | | T |
| Evening Grosbeak | x | x | | | x | x | | | x | x | | | | | | | x | | x | | T |
| Broad-winged Hawk | | | x | | | | | | | x | x | | | | x | x | x | | | | T |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | x | | | | | | | x | x | | | | | | x | | | x | T |
| Ovenbird | | | x | | | | | | | x | x | | | | | x | x | | | | T |
| Nashville Warbler | | | x | | | | | | x | x | x | x | | | x | x | x | | x | | T |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | x | | | | | | x | x | | | | | | | x | | x | | T |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | x | | | | | | | x | x | | x | x | x | | | | | | T |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | x | | x | | | | | x | | | | | | | x | x | x | | T |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | x | | | | | | | x | | | | | | | x | | x | | T |
| Northern Goshawk | | | | | x | x | x | | | x | | | | | | | x | x | | | |
| Swainson's Thrush | | | | | | x | | | | x | | | | | | | x | x | x | | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | | | | x | x | | | x | | | | | | x | | | | x | x | |
| Canada Jay | | | | | | x | | | x | x | | | | | | | x | x | x | | x |
| Winter Wren | | | | | x | | | x | | x | | | | | | | x | | | x | T |



partnerships

www.umgljv.org/partnerships/

Northern Forest Birds Network

Bird conservation in the northern forests of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin has received increasing attention in the last decade in response to a great need for improved coordination of monitoring and other conservation activities for northern forest birds across the boreal hardwood transition zone (Bird Conservation Region 12).

The Northern Forest Birds Network formed in 2013 and has since made steady progress towards identifying a shared vision, translating that vision into clear goals, engaging a robust network of partners, and expanding its focus from coordinated monitoring and data management to also integrating science-based needs of forest birds with land management activities.

In 2018, the Network transitioned from operating within the Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership to serving within the Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Joint Venture partnership.

Vision: *Our leadership and guidance in monitoring, research, and management actions ensure thriving, diverse northern forest bird communities across the U.S. portion of Bird Conservation Region 12.*

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER >



Canada Warblers can often be seen hopping between understory trees while cocking their tails and flipping their wings.

Original Blog Articles

Unlocking the Mysteries of the Boreal Chickadee

By Anna | April 19th, 2022 | Northern Forest Bird Network

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BOREAL CHICKADEE

By Alexis Grinde, Kara Snow, and Steve Kolbe, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota-Duluth



Photo by Ryan Brady

SPECIES BACKGROUND

Boreal Chickadees (*Poecile hudsonicus*) live in northern boreal coniferous forests (Figure 1). This species can be found in highest densities in Alaska and Canada, but the most southern portion of their range extends into the forested peatlands located in the northern section of Bird Conservation Region 12 (BCR 12, the boreal-hardwood transition zone). In this region, Boreal Chickadees are permanent residents and are strongly associated with mature, conifer-dominated peatlands. They are often found in habitats with other coniferous-dependent bird species, such as Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus satrapa* and *R. calendula*). Although they look similar to the more common Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), but Boreal Chickadees have a brown crown and a gray nape with a small cheek patch. The Boreal Chickadee's "chick-a-dee" call is also buzzier and slower than the call of the Black-capped Chickadee.



News from the Northern Forest

[Link to all past Northern Forest news posts](#)

Northern Forest Birds Network 2023 Conference

August 15th, 2023

The Northern Forest Birds Network is a collaborative conservation partnership supported by the Upper Mississippi / Great Lakes Joint Venture that works cooperatively across Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, primarily in Bird Conservation Region (BCR) [...]

Northern Forest Conservation Delivery Network welcomes Jayme Strange as new coordinator

June 9th, 2023

The Midwest Region is pleased to welcome Jayme Strange to our Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Joint Ventures staff where she will work in a leadership role on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and partner forest habitat issues in our region.

Surviving on the Trailing Edge: Climate-induced Declines in Boreal Birds and Identifying their Refugia

February 7th, 2023

Earth is approaching a tipping point toward a new “hothouse” planetary state due to human-induced climate change. Amid a warming climate, we are witnessing unprecedented changes to bird communities and their habitats.

Proceedings of the 2022 Connecticut Warbler Conservation Summit

November 18th, 2022

In response to major declines in Connecticut Warbler populations across the northern United States, the Northern Forest Bird Network convened a one-day virtual summit on October 21, 2022.



A Forest Owner's Guide to
**Forestry for
Michigan Birds**



Forest Owner's Guide: This guidebook provides high level information for the typical forest landowner that is looking for information about what they can do to get started managing their property with birds in mind.



A Forest Manager's Guide to
**Forestry for
Michigan Birds**



Forest Manager's Guide: This guidebook dives deeper into the technical information that professionals can utilize when discussing management with landowners, creating forest management plans, or conducting on-the-ground management.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)



© Agami Photo Agency/Shutterstock



FOREST AGE CLASS: Older Forest

IDENTIFICATION: Medium-brown with pale underparts, spotted breast, and large buff-colored eyerings that extend in front of the eye, creating "spectacles."

SONG: Complex, distinctive, fluting song. An upward-spiraling melody, constantly ascending. Described as *whip-poor-will-a-will-e-zee-zee-zee*, ending in a high trill.

NEST: Nests in shaded understory, on average 3-10 feet above the ground in shrub thickets, conifer saplings, or young deciduous trees.

FOOD: Insectivorous and frugivorous; mostly forages on the ground but also catches insects with short hawking flights. Fruit is especially important during late summer and fall migration.

TERRITORY SIZE: 2.5-5 acres. Found in the U.P.; uncommon in the northern L.P.

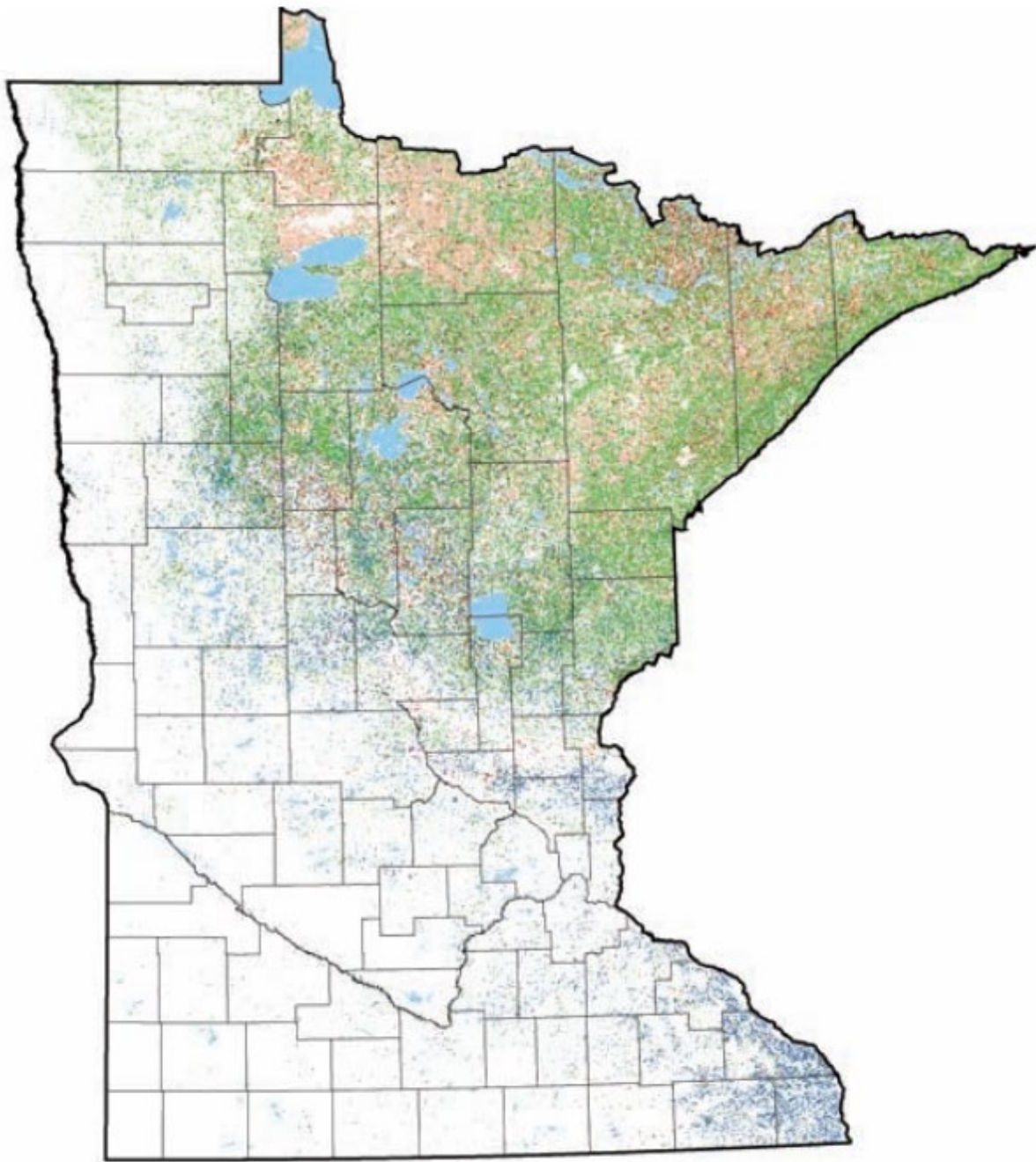
CLIMATE VULNERABILITY: High. Predicted to lose all of its current breeding range in Michigan.

HABITAT FEATURES & MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Coniferous forests with dense understory and native fruit-bearing plants. Conserve mature stands (>150 acres) of conifers dominated by fir, spruce, or eastern hemlock, with mostly-closed canopy. Alternatively, manage for dense mixed-deciduous stands that support a variety of understory layers. Retain and promote native, fruit-bearing trees and deciduous shrubs, or use moderate selective harvesting to promote understory growth. Consider the landscape context when planning for large areas of clearcutting.¹⁴

Table: Overview of key habitat structures for FMB priority forest bird species¹⁰

| | |
|--|---|
| Vertical structure diversity/canopy cover | Vertical structure diversity, or differing levels of canopy cover in the over-, mid-, and understory, provides habitat to many forest breeding birds. |
| Horizontal structure diversity | Diversity in horizontal structure, or the arrangement of species and woody structure on a plane parallel to the ground, provides habitat to many forest breeding birds. |
| Gaps | Create gaps, or openings, to regenerate desired tree species and to diversify habitat for forest breeding birds. |
| Native biodiversity/invasive species | Manage to create a diversity of native forest plants to ensure that birds have available food sources, including insects and mast. Eliminate invasive plants that may interfere with tree and shrub regeneration. |
| Large diameter trees | Provides structural elements for nesting, roosting, perching, and feeding habitat for many forest breeding birds. |
| Softwood inclusions | Retain or create clusters of softwood, or conifer trees, for habitat and to increase forest resilience to climate change and other stressors. |
| Snags or cavity trees | Provides structural elements for nesting, roosting, perching, and feeding habitat for many forest breeding birds. |
| Downed woody material | Provides structural elements for ground nesting birds as well as habitat for invertebrate food sources. |
| Leaf litter and duff | An adequate layer of duff is essential to ground nesting birds and invertebrate populations. In oak dominated hardwood forests, it may hinder natural oak regeneration. |
| Riparian and wetland forests | Water features and the surrounding vegetation provide beneficial habitat elements for forest bird breeding and migration. |



Forest Stewards
 **Guild**
putting the forest first



Katie (Koch) O'Brien Moves On



Northern Forest Conservation Delivery Network welcomes Jayme Strange as new coordinator

By Anna | June 9th, 2023 | News, Northern Forest Bird Network

By Doug Gorby, UMGL Joint Venture Coordinator

The Midwest Region is pleased to welcome Jayme Strange to our Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Joint Ventures staff where she will work in a leadership role on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and partner forest habitat issues in our region.

Jayme began her new role June 5, 2023. She will work with partners including the U.S. Forest Service, the American Bird Conservancy and others to accelerate and amplify forest bird conservation and research initiatives in the region. Jayme will focus on collaborating with partners to leverage resources for landscape-scale programs that are aligned with the Joint Ventures Landbird Habitat Conservation Strategy.

Jayme will be based out of Wisconsin and will work across Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, primarily in the boreal/hardwood transition habitat of Bird Conservation Region 12. Across this geography, she will network with folks from public agencies, nongovernmental offices, universities, commercial forest owners and others to protect, restore, enhance and manage public and private forest sustainably. Her aim will be to ensure healthy habitats for populations of forest-dependent birds while embracing the many uses and benefits of forest lands.



Jayme Strange. Photo by USFWS



Current Steering Committee



- Ryan Brady, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI)
- Peter Dieser, American Bird Conservancy (MN)
- Dave Fehringer, Eastwood Forests LLC (MI)
- Andrew Forbes, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (MN)
- Ted Gostomski, U.S. National Park Service (WI)
- Alexis Grinde, Natural Resources Research Institute (MN)
- Dave Grosshuesch, U.S. Forest Service (MN)
- Michael Lynch, Forest Stewards Guild (MN)
- Michael Paling, American Bird Conservancy (MI)
- **Jayme Strange, American Bird Conservancy (WI) *COORDINATOR**

Erin Giese, UWGB



Peg Robertsen, USFS



What's Next?



Help Guide Us!

What's Next?

► Science:

- Working Groups/Teams
 - Full Annual Cycle
- Research & Monitoring
- Step down JV Landbird Plan



Help Guide Us!

Landbird Habitat Conservation Strategy – 2020 Revision



Summary – Regional Management Actions for Forest Birds

- Implement forest-bird habitat retention objectives (Table 8) at locations currently dominated by forest and having a breeding bird focus (Figure 17B), as well as areas where forest cover should be expanded to benefit both breeding and migrating forest birds (Figures 17A).
- Manage forests to provide characteristics of high quality habitat for forest-bird focal species (Appendix D, Figure 18), addressing primary forest threats (Table 7) and following the principles of Sustainable Forest Management.
- Retain and expand large relatively un-fragmented forest blocks (Figure 17B) >10,000 ha in size in the north JV region, and connect forest stands in areas with $\geq 70\%$ forest cover (Figure 17A) in other portions of the region, especially where contiguous patches can exceed 50 ha in size (via restoration).
- Retain and expand forest patches (≥ 50 ha) and corridors of upland and floodplain forest along waterways and within 25 km of Great Lakes shoreline, especially in semi-open (e.g., agricultural) landscapes with potentially high-use as migration stopover sites (see habitat characteristics described in Migratory Bird Stopover Facts in Full Annual Cycle section).
- Support and encourage full life-cycle conservation efforts for JV focal species at stopover and wintering locations outside the JV region.
- Promote forest conservation that integrates game- and non-game bird management objectives, as well as other ecological goods and services provided by forests.
- Continue integrating social science into forest bird planning and habitat delivery, including seeking expanded social science expertise on the JV Management Board and Science Team.
- Develop and refine models that integrate social and biological objectives to target conservation with greater benefits to forest birds and people (e.g., Appendix F) and with the goal of increasing relevance and support for bird conservation.

What's Next?

► Science:

- Working Groups/Teams
 - Full Annual Cycle
- Research & Monitoring
- Step down JV Landbird Plan

► Outreach/Communication:

- Grow Audience
- New Webinar Series?

► Habitat Management:

- Forestry for Birds programs



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