

*Northern Forest Birds Network
Fall Conference*

Cloquet Forestry Center (CFC), Cloquet, MN
October 7-8, 2025



Tues morning

Presentation day

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION: Coffee, breakfast and social time

9:00 – 9:10 a.m.

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

9:10 – 10:30 a.m.

Loss of Lowland Conifer Bird Species and Managing Forests for Birds (Alexis Grinde, Marcella Windmuller-Campione)

Forests across the Midwest, including the five major forest types of Minnesota, are facing unprecedented threats from a rapidly changing climate and increasing pest pressures. Simultaneously, regional bird populations are in steep decline, a trend linked to widespread habitat loss and degradation. This talk explores the critical intersection of these two issues, focusing on the highly climate-threatened lowland conifer systems of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

We present findings from recent studies that reveal the limitations of traditional management practices for these sensitive forest types, particularly concerning regeneration, survival, and growth under current stressors. These findings have significant implications for specialized bird communities, such as those of the Boreal Chickadee and Connecticut Warbler, which rely on these specific habitats. To maintain these vital ecosystems and support bird populations, we propose that a new, adaptive approach to management is necessary.

We will discuss preliminary results from experimental cuts designed to build adaptive resilience. The evidence suggests that current management paradigms, developed in the absence of today's environmental stressors, are no longer sufficient. The core takeaway is that a new approach is needed to create resilient and sustainable lowland conifer systems. By using birds and biodiversity as key indicators, we can inform and refine forest management practices, ultimately helping us to tweak the management of other forest systems to ensure their long-term health and the survival of the species that depend on them.

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Case Examples of Lowland Conifer Management in Minnesota
- Lowland Conifer Experimental Sites (Josh Bednar and Marcella)
- Peatlands Playbook (Maya Swope)

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.

BREAK

11:15 - 11:40 a.m.	<p>Economic Importance of Black Spruce (<i>Mike Lynch</i>)</p> <p><i>In the state of Minnesota, black spruce is second for pulpwood and third for over utilization. It has economic importance for the state. This presentation will help guide why black spruce should still be considered valuable timber for the region.</i></p>
11:40 – 12:00 pm	Panel Q & A (<i>all morning presenters</i>)
12:00– 1:00 p.m.	Lunch On-Site
Tues afternoon	Forestry for Minnesota Birds Examples
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	<p>Overview of Silviculture library (<i>Lane Moser</i>)</p> <p><i>This will be a presentation on how to use the University of Minnesota’s Silvicultural library and how it can be used as a conservation collaborative tool.</i></p> <p>https://silvlib.cfans.umn.edu/</p>
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	<p>Forestry for Minnesota Birds (<i>Peter Dieser</i>)</p> <p><i>An introduction to the Forestry for Minnesota Guidebook and Initiative, overview of sustainable forest practices for birds, and how this collaborative community can support bird populations.</i></p>
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	<p>Case Examples of Managing for Birds & Their Habitats (10 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Audubon Upper Mississippi River (<i>Dale Gentry</i>) - Golden-winged Warbler Site – brush or aspen cut (<i>Peter Dieser</i>) - pair with bird results (<i>Stephen</i>) - Aspen cut in Chippewa (RGS) - bird response (<i>Reid Siebers</i>) - Oak Irregular Shelterwood within oak forest plus prescribed fire (<i>Emilia Skogen</i>) - Aitkin county gap cuts (<i>Aitkin cty forester</i>) - biodiversity birds (<i>Josh Bednar</i>) - Mixed wood Project (<i>Marcella</i>)
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Case Example’s Panel Q&A (<i>all afternoon presenters</i>)
3:15 – 3:30 p.m.	Directions for Breakout Session & Snack Break
3:30 – 4:15 p.m.	Breakout Session – Managing Forest Stands in Birds in Mind (<i>Christian Nelson, Peter Dieser, Mike Lynch, Lane Moser</i>)
4:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Discussion and wrap-up
5:30 p.m.	<p>CFC 2025 5K optional run!</p> <p>Optional group supper to follow</p>
Wed morning	Field Site Day! [breakfast and to-go lunches]
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Coffee and Breakfast

Gather at CFC if carpooling and pick up box lunches

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| 9:00 a.m. | Leave for Sax-Zim Bog if carpooling from CFC
Address: 8793 Owl Avenue, Toivola, MN 55765 |
| 10:00 a.m. | Arrive at Sax-Zim Bog
<i>Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus will give a short presentation at the Sax-Zim visitor center and we will drive to together to tour different locations of the Bog. During the tour we will have discussion on how different forest management and challenges seen at the bog.</i> |
| 12:30 p.m. | Eat To-Go Lunch |
| 4:00 p.m. | End of Event/Depart from Sax-Zim |