

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HABITAT IN BIRD CONSERVATION
REGION 14

Introduction

The black-and-white warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) is a common to uncommon widespread breeder throughout BCR 14. It is most likely to be found in hardwood or mixed wood pole-sized stands resulting from clear cuts.

Habitat Needs

Its habitat preferences seem to include closed canopy pole hardwood or mixed wood stands. Ten-year old clearcuts seem to be an ideal situation. They are also found in both hardwood and softwood stands with a hardwood understory. There seems to be a relationship with stands on moister soils.

Its territory size ranges from one to ten acres.

Habitat Management Practices

The habitat management objective for this species would be to provide a consistent supply of pole sized hardwood or mixed wood on the appropriate soils across 100-acre units. Treatment scheduling should be set up so that at least 25 percent of any given area with the appropriate soils in pole-sized stands of at least five acres in size.

When assessing properties for habitat potential, look for soils that are moderately well drained, such as Dixfield, Gilmanton, Howland, Metacomet, Peru, Pittstown, Scituate, Skerry, Woodbridge, Sunapee or Dartmouth. There are others depending on where in BCR 14 you are working.

Recommended Silvicultural Treatments include:

Even-age management with clear cuts of at least five acres in size would be the preferred treatment. Group selection would be another option if the group size were maximized.

Schedule entry periods so that at least 25 percent of the total area in this habitat type remains in the pole stage.

These birds are ground nesters so logging operations should be scheduled to occur after nesting season, usually about mid-June. Stands on these soils will allow operations at any time of the year with the possible exception of spring.