

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HABITAT IN BIRD CONSERVATION
REGION 14

Introduction

The Blue-winged warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) is an uncommon to locally common breeder whose population s apparently increasing. It is a breeder in the southern part of BCR 14 up to southern New Hampshire. The blue-wing prefers reverting old fields with scattered shrubs and small trees near water. It is listed in one or more state Wildlife Action Plans within BCR 14.

Habitat Needs

This warbler nests in brushy growth in old-field situations, in regenerating or sapling size clearcuts in hardwoods and in brushy borders of streams or field edges.

Its territory size ranges from one half acre to two acres.

Habitat Management Practices

The habitat management objective for this species would be to maximize the amount of hardwood regeneration in the appropriate area. Maintenance of shrubby conditions in old-field situations through mowing will also help. Both of these situations should be in the vicinity of streams, water bodies or on moister soils if possible.

When assessing properties for habitat management potential for this warbler, look for hardwood producing soils that are on the moister side. Such as Dixfield, Howland, Peru, Skerry, or Sunapee. -Soils with similar properties in the southern part of BCR14 include Gilmanton, Metacomet, Pittstown, Scituate, Woodbridge.

Recommended Silvicultural Treatments include:

Hardwood stands on the appropriate soils should be set up with an even-age management program calling for a 120-year rotation age with ten-year entry periods. Cut blocks should be five acres or more in size.

Set old fields up for brush hogging on a rotation basis allowing three to five years between treatments.