

BROAD-WINGED HAWK  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HABITAT IN BIRD CONSERVATION  
REGION 14

### Introduction

The broad-winged hawk (*Buteo platynerus*) is a fairly common breeder throughout BCR 14. This bird prefers a matrix of openings, such as pasture, field, swamp, and forest openings such as landings or haul roads. Although relatively common, it is listed as a “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” in one or Wildlife Action Plans in the States covered by BCR 14.

### Habitat Needs

This hawk prefers deciduous or mixed deciduous-coniferous forest combined with openings of various sizes. It prefers larger yellow or black birch trees, often along low traffic roads, to build their nests in. Openings of various sorts are essential for hunting.

Its territory size is over 50 acres.

### Habitat Management Practices

The habitat management objective for this species would be to maintain larger yellow and black birches, particularly near openings, back roads and wetlands, across fifty-acre units consisting of hardwood or mixed wood forest types. The same fifty-acre units should contain at least five percent of the area in openings of various sorts.

When assessing properties for habitat potential, look for soils that will produce hardwood or mixed wood types such as Becket, Marlow, Plaisted, Dixfield, Howland, Peru, Scituate, Skerry, Success, Berkshire or Sunapee in northern areas. Similar soils in southern areas include Bernardston, Canterbury, Charlton, Gilmanton, Henniker, Metacomet, Montauk, Paxton, Pittstown, Sutton or Woodbridge. There are others depending where you are in BCR 14.

### Recommended Silvicultural Treatments include:

Even-age management in cut units of five acres or larger would be the ideal option in repeating units of fifty acres or more. Use a 120 year rotation age and standard entry periods. The temporary openings created by this cutting method would help provide the required opening component. Maintain at least five percent of each unit in permanent openings. Wetlands, haul roads, backcountry roads, can contribute to the opening component. Larger black or yellow birch trees for nesting can be provided on the edges of the wetlands of roads as part of routine wetland protection or roadside visual quality management. The nesting period is from Early April to mid-June and operations near known active nest sites should be curtailed during that period.

