

MOURNING WARBLER
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HABITAT IN BIRD CONSERVATION
REGION 14

Introduction

The Mourning warbler (*Oporornis Philadelphia*) is a locally common to uncommon breeder in BCR 14. It requires stands of dense saplings or shrubs resulting from clearcut logging, utility corridors, and other activities that create young forest habitat. It is listed as a “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” in at least one of the Wildlife Action Plans in BCR 14.

Habitat Needs

This is a bird that is closely associated clear cuts or the later stages of the shelterwood system that produce dense undergrowth in hardwood or mixed wood stands. It first appears in clearcut areas after the second year and becomes most abundant around the fifth year and begins to decline around year seven or eight.

Its territory size averages around an acre. This may be one of the species that requires an area that allows for several territories because competition between territorial males may be necessary to stimulate breeding activity.

Habitat Management Practices

The habitat management objective would be to create or maintain a portion of hardwood or mixed wood stands in the 0 to ten year age class (seedling/sapling stage). At least ten percent of the area in hardwood or mixed wood stands should be in this size class across space and time.

When assessing properties for habitat potential, consider areas that contain Bangor, Berkshire, Charlton, Dixfield, Dixmont, Dutchess, Gilmanton, Howland, Lombard, Metacomet, Monadnock, Peru, Pittstown, Scituate, Skerry, Sunapee Sutton, Woodbridge, soils. There are others depending on where you are in BCR 14.

Recommended Silvicultural Treatments include:

The preferred choice would be clearcuts of five acres or more in size. Consider a rotation age of 120 years with ten-year entry periods. This results in a size distribution with ten percent of the area in the desired size class on a continuous basis. Also the two-cut shelterwood system that is set up in five-acre units would work

Nesting and brood rearing is completed by early July. Plan on summer through winter operations in order to avoid nesting season.