

NORTHERN WATER THRUSH
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HABITAT IN BIRD CONSERVATION
REGION 14

Introduction

The Northern water thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) is an uncommon to locally common species in BCR14. It prefers cool, shady, wet brushy areas near open pools of water or swampy hummocks. This waterthrush has been listed as a “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” in the Wildlife Action Plan of at least one State in BCR 14.

Habitat Needs

This bird favors dense thickets along the edges of deciduous or coniferous forested wetlands, ponds or bogs with pools of open water that contain hummocks.

Its territory size is usually around 1.5 to 2.5 acres.

Habitat Management Practices

The breeding habitat for this bird lies within either wetland or riparian areas. It does require dense thickets, so if that component is missing, cutting that falls within wetland and riparian area management guidelines for your State could be done to increase the availability of brushy areas. Also there may be the opportunity to increase or enhance wetlands on any given property. Permits are likely to be required for this work.

When assessing properties for habitat potential, check the latest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wetlands inventory and WAP. Soil series typically associated with wetland habitats are in Important Forest Soil Groups IIB and include Biddeford, Borohemists, Bucksport, Burnham, Catden, Chocorua, Greenwood, Ipswich, Matunuck, Maybid, Meadowsedge, Medomak, Natchaug, Ossipee, Pawcatuck, Peacham, Pondicherry, Saco, Saco Variant, Scarboro, Scarboro very stony, Searsport, Timakwa, Vassalboro, Waskish, Westbrook, Whitman, Whitman cool, and Wonsqueak. Soil series typically associated with riparian habitats are also in Important Forest Soil Groups IIB and include Charles, Cohas, Lim, Limerick, Limerick cool, Rippowam, Rumney. There are others in these categories depending on where you are in BCR 14

Recommended Silvicultural Treatments

None