

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HABITAT IN BIRD CONSERVATION  
REGION 14

### Introduction

The rose-breasted grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludeovicianus*) is a fairly common breeder in BCR 14 but has been declining since the early 1980's (see figure 1).

### Habitat Needs

Prefers northern hardwood sapling and pole stands or brushy openings adjacent to larger diameter hardwood stands on relatively moist soils. It will also use riparian areas, reverting shrubby fields and overgrown orchards.

Food sources are a combination of insects, soft mast and seeds.

Home range varies between 1 to 10 acres.

### Habitat Management Practices

The objective for the habitat management of this species would be to create and maintain areas of northern hardwood saplings, poles and small sawtimber on moist soils. This condition needs to be made available across space and time so that there is between fifty and seventy five percent of every one hundred acres in the above size classes and a relatively even distribution between size classes.

When assessing properties for habitat potential, look for soils that are moderately well drained loamy tills such as the Dixfield, Gilmanton, Howland, Metacomet, Peru, Pittstown, Skerry, Sunapee or Woodbridge soils series. There may be other similar soils in BCR 14 also. These soils fall into the Important Forest Soils Group IA.

Recommended silvicultural treatments include:

For every one hundred acres - consider group selection (groups of 1 to 3 acres) or clearcuts up to ten acres in size, treating a maximum of ten acres every ten years. An alternative would be to initiate a two-cut shelterwood system covering a larger proportion of the area. Heavy thinnings will work temporarily but will result in the loss of the desired size class mixture over time.

Conduct harvest operations starting after breeding season in late July. Group IA soils can be operated on in either summer or winter using precautions since these soils are on the moist side.