

WORM-EATING WARBLER
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HABITAT IN BIRD CONSERVATION
REGION 14

Introduction

The Worm-eating warbler (*Helminthos vermivorus*) is a locally common to rare breeder in the southern part of BCR 14 only. It prefers deciduous or mixed mature forests that include ravines or steep hillsides in them. It is very sensitive to forest fragmentation. This warbler is listed as a “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” in the Wildlife Action Plan of at least one state in BCR 14.

Habitat Needs

The preferred nesting habitat is dense understory vegetation in ravines or steep hillsides or extensive stands of mature hardwoods with a thick understory. It also will use a thick shrub layer along streams and wetlands.

Its territory size lies between one and ten acres.

Habitat Management Practices

The habitat management objective for this species would be to provide relatively large stands of mixed or hardwood stands that contain dense understory. Since ravines or steep hillsides are also an important component (making operability problematic), consider setting up areas that meet these criteria as no cut or deferred zones.

When assessing properties for habitat potential, look for soils such as Berkshire, Bice, Charlton, Sutton in Important Forest Soils Group IA and Acton, Canton, Chichester, Monadnock, Newfields, Sunapee, Waumbek in Important Forest Soils Group IB. There may be others as well in BCR 14.

Recommended Silvicultural Treatments include:

Periodic light thinnings in operable areas might help to keep a dense understory present.

John – Let’s talk about this one.