



## Forest Bird Habitat Assessments

Thanks to funding from the US Forest Service, Audubon Connecticut's *Forest Bird Initiative* is integrating science, education, public policy, and land management expertise to ensure the continual existence of high-quality breeding habitat for forest songbirds along the Atlantic Flyway. One of the primary ways we work toward achieving this goal is to collaborate with and provide technical assistance, via Habitat Assessments, for landowners, land managers, and communities who wish to protect and enhance habitat for breeding forest birds on the properties they own and/or manage.



Hermit Thrush by Sue Dunn

What is a forest bird habitat assessment?

A Habitat Assessment is an ecological census of current songbird and forest habitat conditions on your property conducted by an Audubon conservation biologist and Certified Foresters from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and Ferruci and Walicki, LLC during the spring or summer months.

- We work directly with private landowners to conduct habitat assessments on their properties.
- Following the field inventory, we put the information from the inventory into a written report along with management options and considerations aimed at enhancing, maintaining, and/or creating quality habitat on your property.
- With your permission, we also conduct more thorough bird surveys on your property which supplement the written report and increase our collective knowledge of forest bird species distribution in CT.
- Information on state listed species (birds and other wildlife) is submitted to the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) with your consent.
- Habitat assessments are a free service that Audubon Connecticut, in partnership with the Agricultural Experiment Station and the CT DEEP Division of Forestry and Wildlife Division, provides to landowners.
- Additional information on federal incentive and conservation stewardship programs and forest stewardship workshops is provided.
- The assessment and accompanying report are meant to be resources to help inform land stewards about forest management tools which can be employed if enhancing bird habitat is of interest. Landowners are under no obligation to implement recommendations.

Audubon Connecticut is a state-wide organization, and the number of applicants often exceeds our ability to assist all interested landowners. As a consequence, we prioritize our habitat assessment work to parcels of 10+ acres within continuous canopy forests that are critically important areas (orange blocks) for breeding songbirds.

To sign-up for a Habitat Assessment, visit <http://ct.audubon.org/forest-birds> and follow the link to the pre-assessment questionnaire.

For additional information, please contact Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe ([cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org](mailto:cfolsom-okeefe@audubon.org), 203-405-9116) or Sean Grace ([sgrace@audubon.org](mailto:sgrace@audubon.org), 860-492-0120).

