

**Processes for Establishing Priority Species List by Habitat,  
And Population Goals and Objectives**

1. List is organized by habitat and within each habitat, sorted by group: waterfowl, waterbird, shorebird, and landbird. Basic habitat groups were set by using the PIF plans. Additional habitats were added to better place the shorebird, waterbird and waterfowl (added major category-Coastal and added islands to Beach/Dune).
2. To establish priority list for each group of birds (did not include species at the very edge of their range):
  - Landbirds** (*includes some species from each of the other groups but it is not comprehensive*):
    - Use PIF plans by taking the first three tiers of the continental/regional priority ranking. Focal species are in bold. PIF further breaks these tiers into habitat groups.
    - If there is no focal species in a habitat from the first three tiers, use the most appropriate species from the next tier. Discussed with Regional Biologist how to choose most appropriate species.
  - Waterfowl**
    - Utilized the NAWMP combined prioritization list for breeding and non-breeding ducks by BCR. This list was refined by Regional biologist to select species that occur in and are important to Connecticut.
    - Used the *Birds of North America Index* for guidance on habitat preference as well as having input from regional biologist.
  - Waterbirds**
    - Received a list developed by biologists from the MANEM Regional Working Group.
    - The Waterbird Conservation for the America's website was used to determine habitat type, status, issues, and management suggestions.  
(<http://birds.fws.gov/regionalplanninginternal/MANEM/>)
  - Shorebirds**
    - Received a Shorebird Priority and Status List from Stephen Brown (Manomet). This list provides information on BCR 14 and 30.
    - Focal species were identified in the Draft Monitoring plan for Connecticut.
    - Used the *Birds of North America Index* for guidance on habitat preference.
3. To determine habitat and population goals for focal species:
  - Landbirds**
    - Regional Biologist developed an excel table that calculated what portion of the regional population objectives the state of Connecticut would be responsible for.
      - 1) For each species, obtain relative abundance estimates by state for the years 1990-1998 (from BBS website)

- 2) Make any necessary corrections for relative abundance differences for small portions of states in a physiographic area (also in BBS website)
- 3) Calculate the Ppopulation estimates for each state by dividing relative abundance by effective area and multiplying by area of state within physiographic area
- 4) Calculate total population by summing population estimates across all states in physiographic area
- 5) Calculate the proportion of the total population within each state by dividing the population estimates for each state by the total population
- 6) Multiply the population objective from the PIF Plan by the proportion of total population for each state to get population objectives for each state
- 7) Divide each state's population objective by the average breeding density for a given species to calculate a habitat objective for each state.

#### **Waterfowl**

- No focal species were chosen for this group.

#### **Waterbirds**

- Instead of providing population objectives, the most current population survey data was presented (population index) by utilizing the survey data from the USGWS/Patuxent Waterbird Monitoring Partnership site.
- Several methods of counting were used in this database: # of adults, # of nests, # of chicks, etc, over several years (not consistent), for different sites. Connecticut's data represents the most recent year data, for a particular site.
- Different methods of counting were converted into number of adults (ex: if the survey reported that there were 7 nests, I assumed that each nest had 2 adults, thus stating that there were 14 adults at that particular site).

#### **Shorebirds**

- Instead of providing population objectives, the most current population survey data was presented (population index). Numbers were drawn from the survey data provided in the draft Plan for Monitoring Shorebirds During the Non-breeding Season in Bird Monitoring Region Connecticut. The plan provided survey data from the ISS for 4 focal/important sites.