

ATLANTIC COAST JOINT VENTURE

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Included in this region are the Southern Blue Ridge, Northern Cumberland Plateau, Ohio Hills, Allegheny Plateau, and the Southern, Northern and Mid-Atlantic Ridge and Valley physiographic areas of Partners In Flight. The area is characterized by mostly forested lands on rugged terrain, dominated by oak-hickory and mixed pine-hardwood forests in lower elevations, and northern hardwoods in coves and higher elevations along with spruce and fir. High priority birds in the region are Henslow's Sparrow, American Woodcock, Wood Thrush, many species of warblers including Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, and Southern Appalachian populations of Black-capped Chickadee, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Red Crossbill, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The region is not critical to waterfowl conservation but does include headwaters for most major eastern watersheds, and thus provides sources for areas of waterfowl migration and wintering. Most of the Appalachians Bird Conservation Region, BCR 28, is within the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV), with the exception of small portions in Tennessee, Kentucky, and a small area of Ohio. The ACJV Management Board has agreed to facilitate bird conservation in the region without dedicating substantial staff and funds to the effort.

- The ACJV assisted in the relocation of a USFWS employee who has been designated the Appalachian Mountains BCR Coordinator to help facilitate coordinated bird conservation efforts in the Appalachian Mountains
- The ACJV Management Board support efforts to expand bird conservation efforts in the areas outside of the ACJV within the Appalachian BCR but has no plans to expand the ACJV; additional staff and funding are required to develop the Appalachian Mountains BCR initiative
- A Steering Committee has been established for the Appalachian Mountains that will work with the Coordinator to advance coordinated bird conservation in the region. The Steering Committee is currently comprised of 24 members from state wildlife conservation agencies, federal agencies, NGO's, and private industry
- A conceptual plan has been developed that describes the strategy for achieving coordinated bird conservation in the Appalachian Mountains BCR
- Recent Steering Committee meetings have resulted in significant advances for technical bird conservation planning within the Appalachian Mountains BCR; a BCR wide partner workshop is planned for 2006



The Appalachian BCR is a large region covering portions of 15 states with a large number of ongoing bird conservation efforts, largely uncoordinated and often agency or state specific, including research, inventory, monitoring, education, and a variety of land management practices. The tremendous amount of work to coordinate these efforts and unify Appalachian bird conservation will be challenging to say the least. However, with the commitment of the ACJV and other partners, coordinated and integrated bird conservation for the Appalachian BCR is moving forward.

Partners: USFWS, NPS, USFS, USGS, 13 states, American Bird Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, National Turkey Federation, Arch Coal Inc., and several universities.

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APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS BIRD CONSERVATION REGION



PARTNERS

Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia,
West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York, New Jersey
Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere, The Nature Conservancy,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey,
American Bird Conservancy, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, National Turkey Federation,
Arch Coal Inc., and several universities.