

ATLANTIC COAST JOINT VENTURE

Piedmont Bird Conservation Initiative

Photo: D. Barrows

The Piedmont Bird Conservation Region, BCR 29, lies wholly within the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, with the exception of a very small portion in Alabama. The Piedmont is transitional between the coastal plain and the Appalachians, dominated by pine and mixed southern hardwoods. Landbirds are the primary focus of conservation in the Piedmont, although interior wetlands, reservoirs, and riverine systems provide migration and wintering habitat for waterfowl and some shorebirds. High priority landbirds include Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Swainson's Warbler, Summer Tanager, Prairie Warbler, and Northern Bobwhite. High priority habitats include riparian areas, interior forest, and early successional habitats. Major threats to habitat in the Piedmont are urbanization (particularly along the I-85 corridor), agriculture, and intensive forest management. By increasing the acreage and capability of managed wetlands, objectives for waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds can be met simultaneously.

- lies mostly within the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, encompassing portions of nine states and under direct and immediate threat of urbanization
- partners are interested in forming a "SAMBI" type initiative for the Piedmont, with growing numbers of partners positioned to begin a planning effort
- U.S. Forest Service, Virginia Tech University, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and several states have expressed interest in coordinating; U.S. Forest Service is currently providing funding for initial coordination efforts (Gary Peters, Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests, South Carolina).
- conservation challenges include identifying long term conservation priorities, restoration of riparian areas and canebrakes, linking riparian corridors to upland habitats, and improving water quality

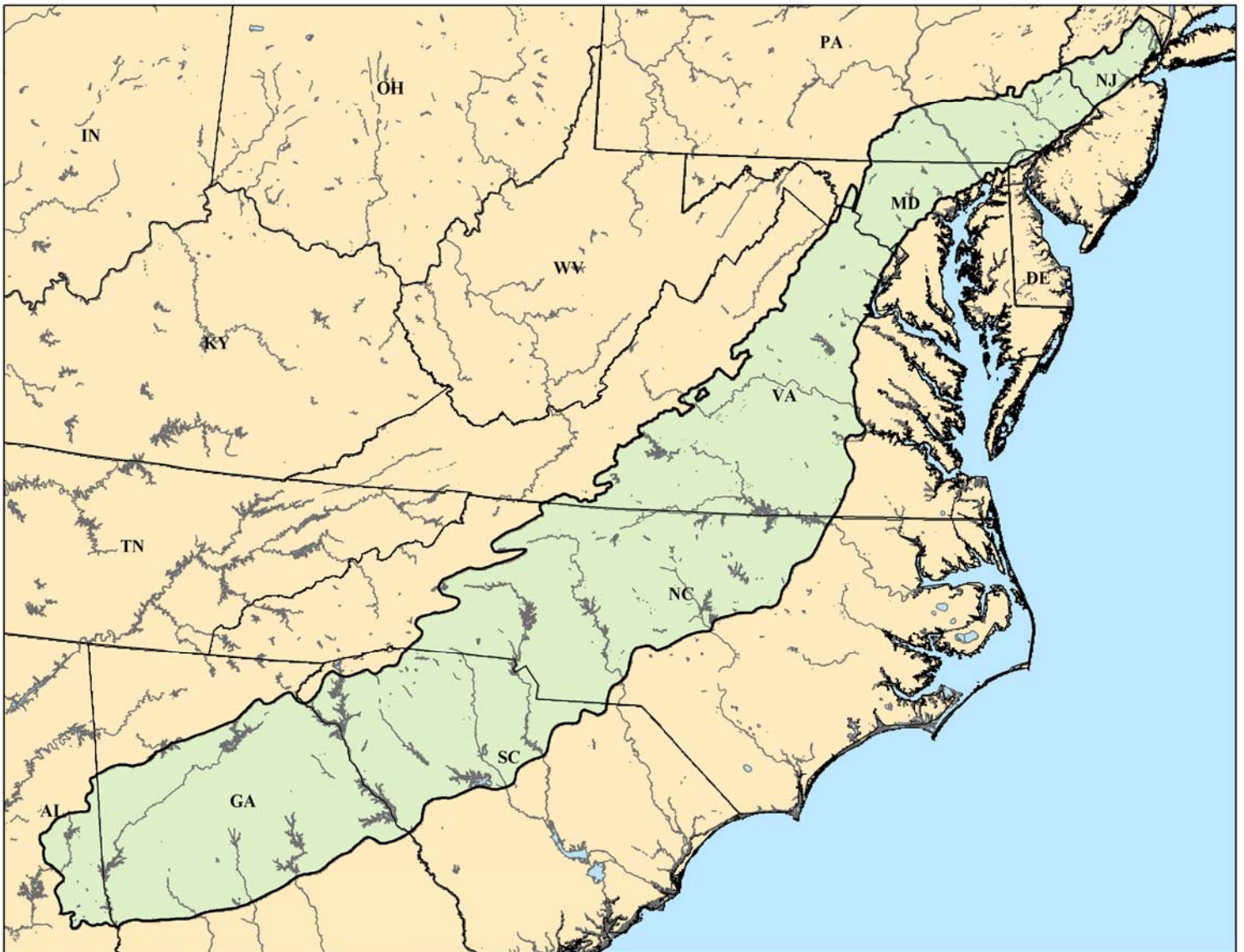


Although no formal coordination is underway, initial planning efforts are being conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. Many partners have expressed interest in moving forward with biological planning similar to that of the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative. Regional Land Trust organizations and extensive partnerships are developing in part of the Piedmont, focusing on landscape-scale conservation and protection. The Broad River Focus Area in South Carolina, the Two Rivers Initiative and Yadkin –Pee Dee Lakes Project in North Carolina, the Cooperative Upland Restoration and Enhancement (CURE) Program in North Carolina, and the Georgia Piedmont Natural Resources Partnership, are just a few examples of ongoing programs and partnerships that could be duplicated throughout the Piedmont to further bird conservation in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture.

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PIEDMONT BIRD CONSERVATION REGION



PARTNERS

Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, District of Columbia, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Tech University, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service

