

THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY'S EASTERN FOREST CONSERVATION INITIATIVE: EXAMINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIRD CONSERVATION AT A REGIONAL SCALE

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The forests of the east are under tremendous pressure from a variety of sources, including increasing development and fragmentation, declining air quality, declining water quality, and global climate change. Many priority bird species depend on these forested habitats, including a high percentage (75 percent) of neotropical migrant breeding species. The Eastern Forests Initiative within the National Audubon Society is a new focus of an Eastern States Alliance for Bird Conservation undertaken by Audubon in 2008. Utilizing the backbone of the Important Bird Areas program (IBA), Audubon is identifying those areas within priority habitats (including high-elevation forests) for maximum bird conservation value. Using the methods of the Open Standard for the Practice of Conservation (Conservation Measures Partnership, 2007), Audubon is identifying conservation actions within those forests for birds where there are shared biological resources, shared threats to those resources, and opportunities for shared conservation outcomes. This program will highlight this process and inform potential partners of the status of the project.

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