

AVIAN BIODIVERSITY AND RECRUITMENT IN PATCH CUTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Interest in landowners' silvicultural practices and their influence on avian biodiversity is on the rise. Timber harvested from small patch cuts can create potentially useful disturbance and openings that may affect avian communities. In March 2012, fifteen patch cuts were made on a piece of land in Canaan, NH and given one of three treatments common in timber harvest; tree crowns were piled, scattered or removed from the cut. Census data were collected one year before the harvest and thus far one year of post-harvest work has been done. To address the more immediate avian response three species abundant both pre- and post-harvest, Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*), Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*), and Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), were banded and their territories mapped. Early trends appear to show that the numbers of early successional species have increased without detracting from pre-harvest numbers of mature forest species. While this is not due to regenerative growth, as it has not yet grown in, the increased edge habitat has undoubtedly been influential in attracting more individuals known to associate with early successional forests. Implementing forestry practices that promote recruitment of early successional bird species should ideally be planned at landscape scales being mindful of the ecological needs of forest-interior bird species.