Use of Floodplain Forest Habitats by Breeding and Migrating Birds

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Tree Densities at Sites Along the Merrimack River and its Tributaries

- Silver Maple
- Am. Elm
- White Ash
- White Pine
- Red Oak
- Red Maple
- Sugar Maple
- Birches
- Am. Beech
## Characteristics of Floodplain Forest Bird Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Merrimack</th>
<th>Tributary</th>
<th>Upland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Breeding Species</strong></td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Territories/hectare**</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Territories Successful</strong></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Migrant Species</strong></td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Effect of Site Area on Breeding Bird Species Richness at Floodplain Sites
Distribution of Breeding Birds by Nesting Guild in Floodplain Forests
Bird Species Characteristic of Tributary or Upland Forests

- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- E. Wood-Pewee
- Brown Creeper
- Hermit Thrush
- Black-thr Green Warbler
- Ovenbird

Territories/ha

- Merrimack
- Tributary
- Upland
Conclusions:

- Floodplain forest habitats support bird communities that differ from those of upland forests.
- Floodplain forests along larger rivers support different bird communities than those along smaller rivers.
- Small fragments of floodplain forest may support fewer bird species than larger fragments.
Recommendations:

- Protection of upland forest should not be considered appropriate mitigation for loss of floodplain forest.
- Mitigation sites should be located on rivers of similar size.
- Every effort should be made to prevent fragmentation of floodplain forest into fragments less than 15 hectares.