

Foresters for Maine Birds Assessment Data Form for Stands: Long Version

A shorter version of this datasheet is on p. x and may be preferable once you are familiar with the assessment.

These data can supplement a traditional forest inventory or be a stand-alone assessment tool. Assessments may be completed for multiple plots within a stand or at each forest inventory cruise point. Alternatively, a single summary assessment can be made based on general observations within a stand (pp. x). If collecting at multiple assessment points within a stand, refer to pp. x-x for methods to summarize data and develop management recommendations. The data collected for this assessment are qualitative estimates. There is no fixed plot size.

Landowner _____ Lot _____ Date _____ Ground Conditions _____

Forester _____ Stand(s) _____ Weather _____

Stand ID	Plot ID or GPS	Forest Type
ID for stand, TBD by forester	ID for plot and/or GPS point if using, TBD by forester.	Forest Type helps determine which birds might be present. Use one of the Common Forest Types listed below or use an alternative classification system that provides similar level of detail (see Table below).
Forest Habitat Association	Common Forest Types	Comments
Northern Hardwoods	Northern Hardwoods (beech-birch-maple and variants) Aspen-birch (early successional)	May include up to 25% softwoods
Northern Mixedwoods	Northern Hardwood/Hemlock Northern Hardwood/Spruce-Fir Hemlock (in patches)	Transitional between northern hardwoods and northern softwoods
Northern Softwoods	Spruce-Fir Spruce-Hemlock Northern White pine/Mixed Conifer Northern White Cedar Aspen-birch (early successional)	May include up to 25% hardwoods
Oak-Pine	Northern Red Oak Red Oak- Mixed Hardwoods Red Oak-White Pine-Red Maple White Pine Hemlock and Hemlock-Oak-Pine Aspen-birch (early successional)	May range from pure oak-dominated hardwoods to mixed hardwood and softwood stands

Stand Structure Class (circle one number)			
Stand Structure Class describes the general structure of a stand. FFMB species in general prefer more complex vertical and horizontal structure. FFMB promotes a mix of these classes across the landscape, with particular attention to older classes (4 and 5).			
Young	1	Regeneration	1-10 years old, <1" DBH
	2	Sapling	2-5" DBH, 10-30' overstory, <30% overstory cover*
Intermediate	3a	Intermediate Single-aged	5-10" DBH, 30-70% overstory cover, midstory cover <30%
	3b	Intermediate Two-aged	5-10" DBH, 30-70% overstory cover, midstory cover >30%
Older	4	Maturing/Small Sawtimber	>70% canopy cover**, overstory trees 10-16" DBH dominant
	5	Older Complex/Large Sawtimber	>70% canopy cover, overstory trees >16" DBH dominant. Multiple canopy layers less common

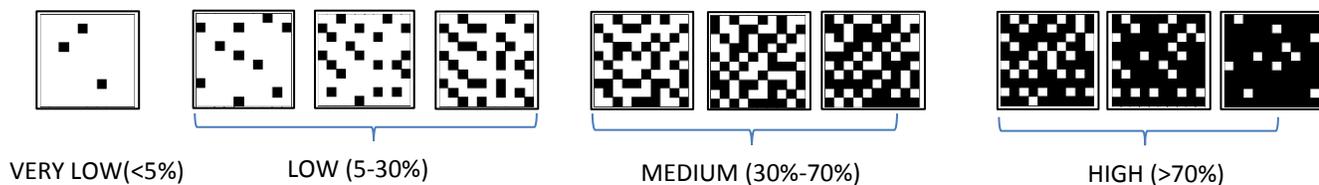
*layer cover is the percent of the forest floor covered by the vertical projection of each vegetation layer (overstory, midstory, etc.)

**canopy cover is the over and mid-story combined.

Where FFMB species are found depends in part on the structure and arrangement of the live vegetation within the forest. Some species prefer a closed canopy, where little sun reaches the forest floor and understory vegetation is sparse. Other species prefer an open canopy with very dense understory or ground cover, and still other species use small gaps openings within a broader closed canopy.

OVERSTORY (>30')				
Species	Layer Cover Very Low (<5%) Low (5-30%) Medium (30-70%) High (>70%)	Composition H (>75% HW) HS (50-75% HW) SH (30-75% SW) S (>75% SW)	Canopy Height 0-10' 10-30' 30-60' >60'	Gaps Present? Y or N How many? _____ Approx. size? <0.01 acres 0.25-0.5 acres 0.5-1 acres 1-2 acres >2 acres
List in order of relative dominance. In hardwoods, be sure to note softwood inclusions, even if only a minor component.	Estimate % of forest floor covered by the vertical projection of the overstory layer and circle one. See table below for guidance.	Circle one.	Height range of dominant and co-dominant trees. Circle one.	Estimate how many per acre or % of stand with gaps. Note the average gap size.
MIDSTORY (6-30')			CANOPY COVER (>6')	
Species	Layer Cover Very Low (<5%) Low (5-30%) Medium (30-70%) High (>70%)	Composition HW (>75% HW) HS (50-75% HW) SH (30-75% SW) SW (>75% SW)	Very Low (<5%) Low (5-30%) Medium (30-70%) High (>70%)	
Same as above but for midstory layer.	Same as above but for midstory layer.	Same as above but for midstory layer.	The percent of the forest floor covered by the vertical projection of <i>all</i> vegetation over 6' (overstory cover + midstory cover – overlap)	
UNDERSTORY (1-5' woody material)		GROUND COVER (<1' woody or taller herbaceous)		
Species	Layer Cover Very Low (<5%) Low (5-30%) Medium (30-70%) High (>70%)	% Cover Very Low (<5%) Low (5-30%) Medium (30-70%) High (>70%)		
Same as above but for understory layer	Same as above but for understory layer	For ground cover layer		

Guidance for estimating % cover/closure (view up through layer to sky):



The dead components within a forest stand are important to many FFMB species, as well as to other forest wildlife. The insects attracted to dead and decaying wood can provide an abundant food source, and the structure of dead wood in the forest (especially snags) provides nesting and resting sites. Litter and other fine woody material on the forest floor provides foraging opportunities, and for some species, places to nest.

SNAGS/CAVITY/DECAY TREES:	COARSE WOODY MATERIAL (CWM) (CIRCLE ONE)	FINE WOODY MATERIAL (FWM) (CIRCLE ONE)	HARDWOOD LEAF LITTER (CIRCLE ONE)
# Large (>9" DBH): _____ # Small (<9" DBH): _____	High, >20 pieces (difficult to walk in places) Medium, 6-20 pieces (occasionally walk over logs and brush) Low, 0-5 pieces (little/no CWD; easy to walk through; park-like)	High, >5 piles Medium, 1-4 piles Low, none	Adequate (>1.5" thick during spring and summer) Not Adequate (<1.5" thick during spring and summer) Not Applicable (S stands)
Count # >6' tall: Snags=standing dead/dying tree; Cavity=alive/dead tree w/nest holes; Decay=live trees with decay or cull sections suitable for cavity excavation	Count # logs/branches on forest floor >6" diameter and >4' in length or standing <6' tall	Count # piles of small branches/tops/slash	Estimate average leaf litter layer thickness.

Invasive plants outcompete native plants, and do not provide the same ecological benefits to FFMB species or other wildlife. The fruits of many invasive plants are not as nutritious as native plants, and in fact, for birds, some act as diuretics. Exotic insects may contribute to significant decline or death of some tree species.

Forested wetlands provide important habitat for many FFMB species. Food may be more abundant in these wetlands, and the structurally complex forest floor around these wetlands provides good nesting and hiding places.

Invasive Plants	Insects and Disease	Forested Wetlands
Species: _____ % Cover: _____		
List in order of relative dominance. Estimate % of forest floor covered by each species.	Record evidence of damaging pests or pathogens.	Note if present in the area.

Notes: _____

