Regional Population Goals

Reports from

Regional Breakout Groups

South America

- Regional Objectives
  - Maintain existing amount of primary forest
  - Improve quality & quantity of other available habitat:
    - increase amount of shade-coffee plantations relative to other agriculture
    - increase mixture of habitats?
    - maintain existing shade-coffee plantations
  - Maintain or establish connectivity between these habitats

South America

- Regional Objectives (continued)
  - Improve quality of “other” habitats at the patch size
    - How?
    - Specific species of foraging substrate?
    - Diversity of (vegetative) species important.
    - Complex canopies within a plantation important.
    - Bromeliads seem to be important for ceruleans
  - Recognize that portions of South American range might need to be managed and interpreted separately

South America

- Information Needs for Defining Objectives
  - Population size – info still very lacking. How many more Ceruleans can habitat support in the wintering ground?
  - Foraging behavior and flowering phenology of plants.
  - Is reproductive success driven by foraging success on wintering grounds (carry-over effects).
  - Survival…what drives survival on wintering grounds?

Midwest / Lower Miss: Regional Objectives

- Sufficient habitat is currently available to accommodate a doubling of the CERW population
- Create source populations in locally-occurring centers of abundance (i.e., Midwestern “core” areas)
  - Maintain and increase the amount of contiguous forest in areas already used by CERW
    - Use southern Michigan sites (Fort Custer ,etc.) as targets for acquisition of buffers to consolidate forest
  - Increase forest patch size
    - increasing the distance from the edge to the core of the forest to reduce cowbird parasitism
  - Maintain silver maple stands in Midwest in relation to altered hydrologic regimes

Northeast

- Regional Objectives
  - Doubling the regional population size with two regional strategies – one in core and one on edge
  - Core:
    - maintain current amounts of habitat and current CERW distribution
    - enhance the quality of that habitat to improve habitat suitability
    - increase CERW productivity

Northeast

- Regional Objectives
  - Double the amount of forest habitat in the more peripheral areas
    - focusing on specific areas and sites (identified core mini-sources).
    - increase number of suitable areas extending out from satellite populations
    - Increase fecundity at edge of range by continuing to collect baseline demographic data
  - Increase juvenile survivorship

Northeast

- Information Needs
  - Modeling approach to determine potential of current landscapes.
  - Occupancy relative to habitat potential – maintain a certain number of sites and enhance the distribution at these known and potential sites.
  - Measure response and number of acres targeted for and effected by management.
  - Collect baseline demographic data.
  - Continue to count birds as BBS is marginal in this area.

Parts of Appalachian BCR & Central Hardwoods

- Regional Objectives
  - Return population to that of the 1980s
    - Goals for these regions should be same as the overall goal
    - We don’t know much about demography, so population trends and habitat availability will be important metrics
    - We can double the population without doubling the acreage in forest

Parts of Appalachian BCR & Central Hardwoods

- Regional Objectives (continued)
  - Large amounts of forest will mature and become good Cerulean habitat
  - Improve habitat quality through appropriate forest management (e.g., selective cuts)
  - Direct efforts towards areas with current Cerulean Warbler populations
  - Improve % forest cover at landscape-scale
  - Limit fragmentation

Cumberland Plateau / Ohio Hills

- Regional Objectives
  - Region has 80% of the pop; if continental pop goal is doubling, we MUST double it
  - Double or triple current densities on high quality sites to meet this objective
  - Develop conservation measures for 100% of hotspots – create definitions of hotspot, then protect them all; eg. 20% highest density sites
  - Improve habitat quality by increasing heterogeneity of forest structure
  - Increase habitat quantity through reforestation

Summary

- South America
  - Maintain existing amounts of primary forest
  - Improve quality and quantity of other suitable habitats (e.g., shade coffee)
- North America
  - Improve habitat quality in core of breeding range, especially around “hot spots”
  - Outside of core breeding range, increase amount and quality of forest patches around existing centers of abundance – build local “source” pops
    - Most non-core areas felt sufficient amount of habitat already exists to support twice as many birds