

Bird Population Effects

By Ronald A. Ryder

In 1983 two study sites were established, each 200 x 600 m. One was severely disturbed by the flood; a second area (the control), upstream on Fall River, was undisturbed. Boundaries of both areas were marked with stakes, as were random vegetation sampling points. Overstory and understory vegetation densities and structure were sampled using techniques described by James and Shugart (1970).

Six visits were made to the sites between Aug. 28 and Oct. 15 and terrestrial vertebrates noted. Fifty avian species, four mammals and one snake were seen. Breeding birds left the area by late August. Four birds were banded. Late nesting of Western Wood Pewee was observed.

Results of 11 breeding bird surveys of the "treated" area were obtained from Debra Bangs, who noted 16 species, 62 territorial males (194 territorial males 100 A). Her data are being compared with ours and those we summarized from five summers' counts (1976-1980) made in similar habitat in Moraine Park by Paula L. Hansley.

One winter survey of the plots was made Dec. 17, 1983. Regular censuses resumed in April 1984.

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