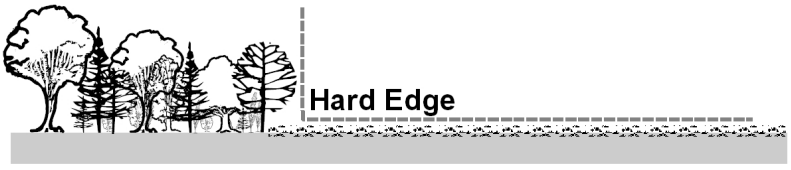
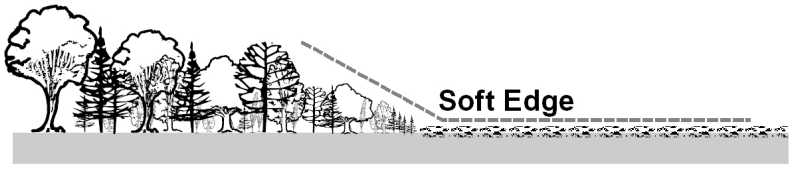
Habitat Terminology

Area-sensitive Bird Species
Bird species which increase in abundance, occur more frequently, and/or achieve higher nesting success with increasing forest patch size such as the wood thrush and scarlet tanager.

Early-Successional Habitat
Regenerating forest and brushy, overgrown fields are two of the most common types of early-successional habitat. The vegetative conditions of these areas are often similar; a high density of small, woody-stemmed vegetation. This may include tree seedlings and saplings, blackberry and/or raspberry, and meadowsweet. These conditions are temporal; generally lasting for 15-20 years in regenerating forest area, longer on old fields. Recent research has shown the importance of early-successional habitats as post-breeding habitat to birds that nested in mature forest. This is primarily due to the often abundance of fruit resources and protective cover for juveniles. Responsibility bird species that require this habitat type for all or a portion of their needs are chestnut-sided warbler, mourning warbler, white-throated sparrow, American woodcock, ruffed grouse, magnolia warbler, and Canada warbler.

Edge
At the edge between forest and open land, the transition from low herbaceous vegetation to tree canopy can be considered either a "soft" or "hard" edge. A soft edge refers to a gradual change in vegetation height moving into the forest. This gradual transition is important for buffering interior forest specialists like the wood thrush from the incursions of nest predators (such as raccoons and skunks) and nest parasites (such as the brown-headed cowbird) that are frequently found in open and developed areas. A gradually increasing canopy height will help shield interior nesting birds from





view by predators and parasites. Additionally, the brushy conditions that often develop in a soft edge may provide breeding habitat for early-successional bird species including chestnut-sided warbler and white-throated sparrow.

Fragmented Forest
Forest that is broken into smaller, unconnected patches, primarily due to some form of development (e.g. residential, commercial, major roads). A fragmented forested landscape is more likely to support "generalist" wildlife species, such as raccoons and skunks, which can decrease nesting success of interior forest birds.

Horizontal Diversity
The arrangement of different habitat conditions across the landscape. A landscape with mature forest, early-successional habitat, open fields, and wetlands would be rich in horizontal diversity.

Interior Forest
Forest condition that occurs with increasing distance from a forested/non-forested edge. As perceived from a bird's perspective, interior forest conditions begin to occur approximately 200-300 ft. from an edge. It is at this distance that negative edge-associated effects such as nest predation and parasitism generally no longer occur. Bird species that are labeled interior forest specialists tend to avoid edges.

National Audubon Society Watchlist
An analysis by the National Audubon Society and American Bird Conservancy which uses the latest available research from the bird conservation community along with citizen science data to identify bird species in the continental U.S. and Hawaii that are in need of immediate conservation help. It is a call to action to save species fighting for survival amid a convergence of environmental challenges, including habitat loss, invasive species and global warming.

Vertical Structural Complexity
Structural complexity refers to the complexity of vegetation as it is spatially arranged in the forest. A forest with a well developed under-story, mid-story, and canopy exhibits complex or diverse structure, which offers habitat for a greater array of bird species compared with a structurally simple forest. Non-living features, such as coarse woody material, and canopy gaps, contribute as well.