

Table 1. Priority Bird Species in the Piedmont Bird Conservation Region (BCR 29).

HIGHEST PRIORITY SPECIES		
Eastern Whip-poor-will (B)	Red-cockaded Woodpecker (B, N)	
Northern Bobwhite (B, N)	Wood Thrush (B)	
HIGH PRIORITY SPECIES		
American Black Duck (B, N)	Chimney Swift (B)	Prairie Warbler (B)
American Woodcock (B, N)	Field Sparrow (B, N)	Ruffed Grouse (B, N)
Black Rail (B)	Grasshopper Sparrow (B)	Rusty Blackbird (T, N)
Brown-headed Nuthatch (B, N)	Kentucky Warbler (B)	Upland Sandpiper (B)
Canada Goose (T, N) (Atlantic Migratory Population)	King Rail (B)	
MODERATE PRIORITY SPECIES		
Acadian Flycatcher (B)	Common Tern (T)	Lesser Yellowlegs (T)
American Bittern (T, N)	Eastern Kingbird (B)	Mallard (B, N)
American Coot (B, N)	Eastern Meadowlark (B, N)	Painted Bunting (B)
Bachman's Sparrow (B, N)	Eastern Towhee (B, N)	Prothonotary Warbler (B)
Black Tern (T)	Eastern Wood-Pewee (B)	Red-headed Woodpecker (B, N)
Blue Grosbeak (B)	Green-winged Teal (T, N)	Short-eared Owl (B, N)
Blue-winged Warbler (B)	Henslow's Sparrow (B)	Swainson's Warbler (B)
Brown Thrasher (B, N)	Hooded Merganser (B, N)	Tundra Swan (T, N)
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (T)	Horned Grebe (N)	Upland Sandpiper (T)
Carolina Chickadee (B, N)	Indigo Bunting (B)	Western Sandpiper (T)

Cerulean Warbler (B)	Least Sandpiper (T, N)	Wood Duck (B, N)
Common Nighthawk (B)	Lesser Scaup (N)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo (B)
MANAGEMENT CONCERN SPECIES		
American Black Duck (B, N)	Mourning Dove (B, N)	Tundra Swan (T, N)
American Woodcock (B, N)	Northern Bobwhite (B, N)	Wild Turkey (B, N)
Lesser Scaup (N)	Ring-necked Duck (N)	Wood Duck (B, N)
Mallard (B, N)	Ruffed Grouse (B, N)	

Priority breeding landbird species were initially identified and ranked using an objective method based on decision rules developed and used for the Atlantic Northern Forest BCR (BCR 14) (Dettmers 2006) planning process (Table 2). This decision matrix is based on scores provided by PIF in the 2012 assessments for breeding landbirds. Non-breeding landbirds, waterbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds were assessed and ranked based on BCR-specific information derived from the continental and regional plans produced by the bird initiatives, State Wildlife Action Plans, and discussions with bird experts. In general, this list identifies priority bird species based on factors such as global and/or continental conservation concerns, the importance of the BCR to a species' global or continental distribution, and the population trend and threat level within the region. There are a number of native bird species, both common and rare, not specifically mentioned in this plan because they are considered lower priority for conservation as compared to the species addressed by this plan. The exclusion of these species indicates that they are considered to have either robust or acceptable populations or trends not requiring further conservation action at this time in the Piedmont. Additionally, this list may not reflect current individual State Wildlife Action Plan priorities but should be representative of a larger geographic priority.

Table 2. Priority Bird Ranking Matrix for the Piedmont BCR.

Priority Tier	Continental Concern	BCR Responsibility	BCR Concern	Rule
Highest	HIGH	HIGH or MOD	HIGH	A

Concern columns both High, Responsibility at least Moderate				
High	MODERATE	HIGH or MOD	HIGH	B
	HIGH	HIGH or MOD	MODERATE	C
	MODERATE	HIGH	MODERATE	D
One or Two columns High, the other(s) Moderate, none Low				
Moderate	HIGH or MOD	LOW *	HIGH	E
	LOW	HIGH or MOD	HIGH	F
	HIGH	LOW *	MODERATE	G
	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE	H
	LOW	HIGH	MODERATE	I
	HIGH	HIGH or MOD	LOW	J
	MODERATE	HIGH	LOW	K
Average of three columns at least Moderate, one may be Low				
Continental Concern - HIGH if on PIF Watch List (CCS-max = 14 or 13 and PT-c = 5; else MODERATE if PIF Combined Continental Score of 12 or 13; otherwise LOW				
BCR Responsibility - HIGH if RD=5 and %Pop ≥5% or if RD=4 and %Pop ≥25%; else MODERATE if RD ≥3 and %Pop ≥1%; else LOW if RD >2				
* where RD=1, species is only eligible for a Priority Tier if specifically designated as a priority by PIF regional partnership				
BCR Concern - HIGH if $TB \times 2 + PT > 10$; else MODERATE if $TB \times 2 + PT > 7$; else LOW				
<p>RD = Relative Density; reflects the mean density of a species within a given BCR relative to density in the single BCR in which the species occurs in its highest density;</p> <p>% Pop = reflect the proportion of the global population of a species that is contained within a BCR during the breeding season;</p> <p>TB = Threats to Breeding Populations; indicates vulnerability due to the effects of current and probable future extrinsic conditions that threaten the ability of populations to survive and successfully reproduce in breeding areas within North America;</p> <p>PT = Population Trend; indicates vulnerability due to the direction and magnitude of recent changes in population size.</p>				