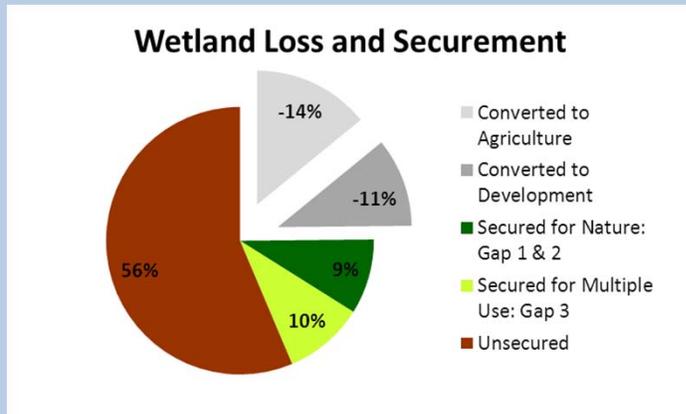


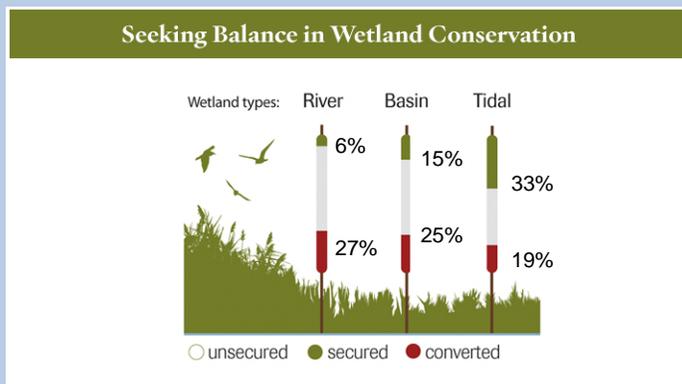
WETLANDS - The Next Big Challenge

Marshes, swamps, bogs, fens, floodplains: wetlands are among the most productive and diverse ecosystems on Earth and are a distinctive feature of the eastern landscape. The Northeast contains over 750,000 individual wetlands that together account for 8.4 million acres, or 5 percent of the region's area. This small percentage of land area supports a large proportion of the region's biodiversity, including over 1,500 types of wetland plants and 475 rare species.



How much wetland has been lost? The immense value of wetlands was unrecognized for most of the last two centuries; during that time they were systematically drained to create land suitable for agriculture and development. The amount lost, estimated from detailed topographic and land cover models, is between 2.8 million and 5.6 million acres. Thus, at least 25 percent of all wetlands have been lost to conversion.

Of our remaining wetlands, only a quarter are secured from development.



Vanishing Riverine Wetlands: Over the last two decades, conservationists have secured 2 million acres of wetlands, making particular progress in protecting tidal wetlands. But river-related wetlands, like floodplain forests, have seen five times more conversion than securement for nature, compounding other impacts like altered flooding.

* The term "Northeast" and all statistics refer to the 13 New England and Mid-Atlantic states.



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Basin Wetland

Swamps, marshes, bogs formed in depressions



©The Nature Conservancy

Riverine (Alluvial) Wetland

Floodplain forest and marsh formed where rivers flood



©Louise Gratton
Nature Conservancy Canada

Tidal Wetland

Coastal saltwater or brackish marsh

Underlying data developed by The Nature Conservancy's Eastern Science Office with support from the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.



Fact sheet supported by
Sweet Water Trust
www.sweetwatertrust.org

For the full report and large maps go to:

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/edc/reportsdata/stateofnature>

Riverine Wetlands



© Christian Marks TNC

Enhanced by periodic floods of nutrient-rich waters, riverine wetlands are hot spots of diversity. For instance, many fish spawn and feed in floodplains.

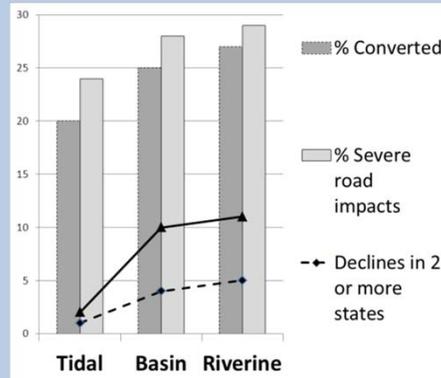
Due to their productive soils and prime valley-bottom locations, floodplains are often converted to farms and are rarely secured from development. Commonly, their boundaries are flanked by roads and their natural flood cycles are altered by dams. The past 40 years have seen declines in several floodplain-associated birds.

Floodplain Birds Declining*



© Jay Oldenette

- Cerulean warbler, Eastern wood pewee
- Yellow-breasted chat
- Common yellowthroat
- Veery



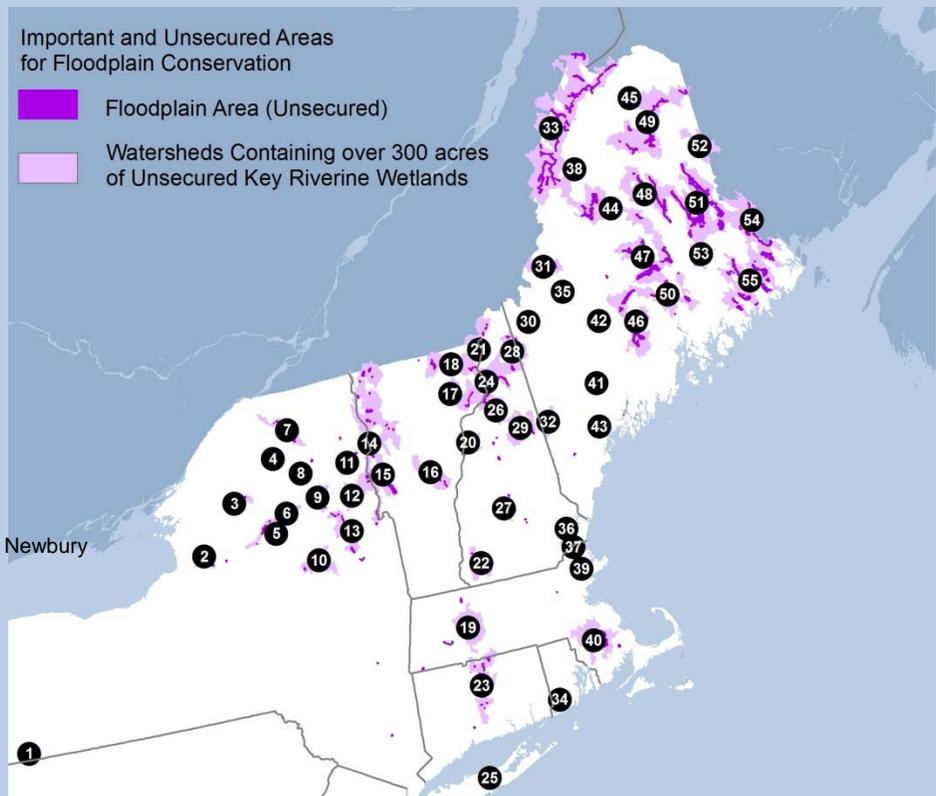
Riverine Wetlands have the highest levels of direct conversion, road impacts, and degree of bird species change.

Important Areas for Floodplain and Riparian Conservation

1. Tunungwant Creek
2. Salmon River
3. West Branch Oswegatchie River
4. Jordan River
5. North Branch Moose River
6. Raquette Lake
7. East Branch Saint Regis River
8. Raquette River
9. Hudson River
10. Sacandaga River
11. Boquet River
12. Schroon River
13. Hudson River
14. Lake Champlain and Poultney River
15. Otter Creek
16. White River and Third Branch
17. Moose River and Passumpsic
18. Clyde, Barton, Black River
19. Connecticut River: Pioneer Valley
20. Connecticut River: Haverhill, Bradford, Newbury
21. Upper Connecticut and Nullhegan
22. Ashuelot River
23. Lower Connecticut
24. Upper Ammonoosuc
25. Peconic River
26. Ammonoosuc River
27. Blackwater River
28. Magalloway and Androscoggin River
29. Saco River, Albany Intervale
30. Kennebago River
31. Moose River
32. Saco River, Old Course Saco River
33. Upper Saint John River
34. Pawcatuck River
35. Dead River
36. Exeter and Pawtuckaway River
37. Powwow River
38. Allagash Stream
39. Ipswich River
40. Taunton River
41. Dead River, Pickerel Pond
42. Kennebec River and Carrabasset
43. Royal River
44. West Branch Penobscot River
45. Fish River
46. Sebasticook River
47. Piscataquis River
48. East Branch Penobscot River
49. Aroostook River
50. Kenduskeag, Pushaw, Blackman Stream
51. Mattawamkeag River
52. North Branch Meduxnekeag River
53. Passadumkeag River
54. Saint Croix River and Tomah Stream
55. Downeast Rivers: Dennys to Narraguagus

Important and Unsecured Areas for Floodplain Conservation

- Floodplain Area (Unsecured)
- Watersheds Containing over 300 acres of Unsecured Key Riverine Wetlands



*birds showing significant declines in 2 or more states

Full sized map at

<http://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/UnitedStates/edc/reports/data/stateofnature>