

2012/13 Stand 18 Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area Report

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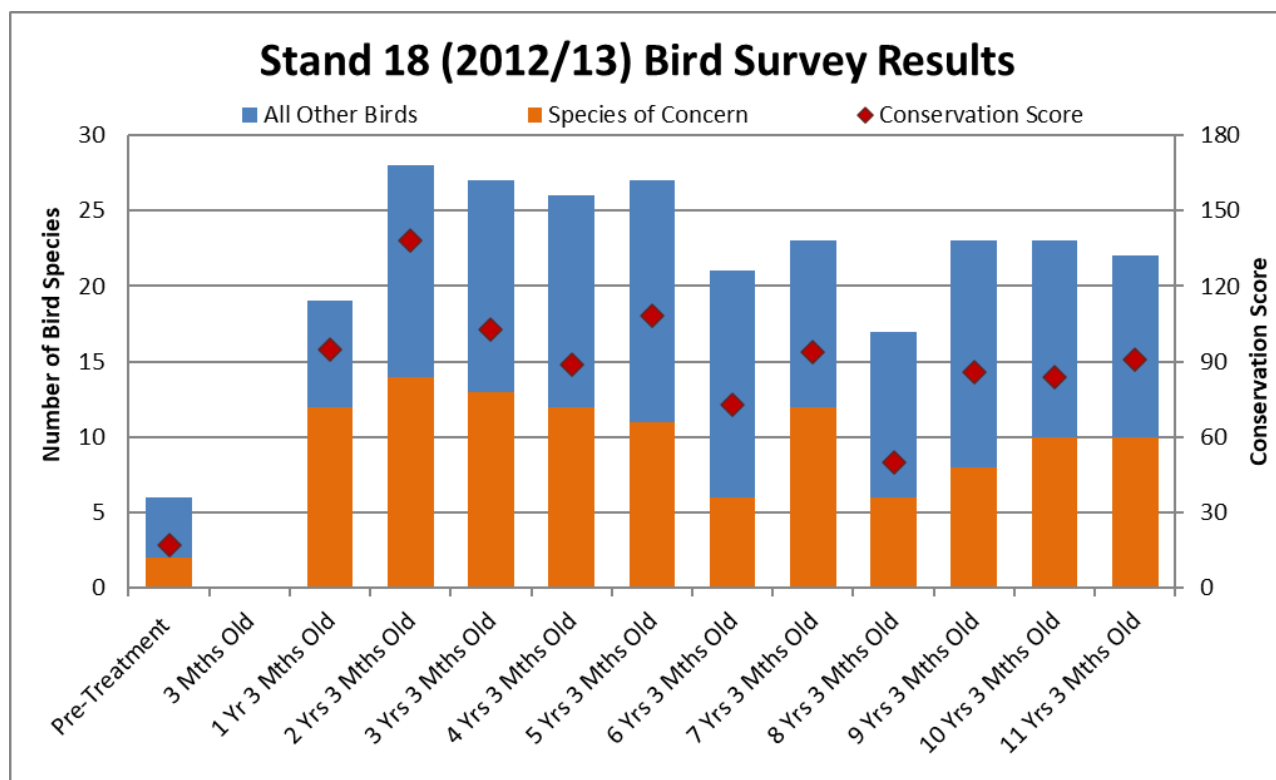
This site is located near the northern part of Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area (SMWMA), north of Edison Road and accessed using an existing unpaved road from Edison Road to the site. The parcel that includes this site was mined for iron in the 1800s through 1900s, then limestone in the early 1900s. As a result, all the trees were cut, rocks were blasted, and processing plants, roads, railroads, and the steam shovel were built to transport all the material. In fact, the existing unpaved road used to access this site was once part of the railroad. This parcel continued to be privately owned by multiple mining companies mining for zinc and other materials through at least the 1960s. The parcel was managed for timber in the 1980s and was purchased by the state and NJ Audubon in 1994 to prevent it from being developed.

Activities for this year were contained within the [2009 Sparta Mountain WMA Forest Stewardship Plan](#) and included a modified seed tree treatment to diversify forest composition, age and canopy structure while releasing existing oak regeneration and fostering new tree regeneration. This treatment created habitat for rare, endangered, and declining wildlife dependent on early successional and young forests for nesting and foraging (see graph). Approximately 13.5 acres were treated in winter and completed prior to April 1, 2013.

[Location Map](#)



Photo taken 8 years, 3 months after treatment



Number of bird species of concern (orange bar), all other bird species (blue bar), and bird conservation score (red) observed during breeding bird surveys in Stand 18 on SMWMA. Bird conservation scores are the sum of the scores of each individual bird species detected, which were determined for each species based on federal, state, and regional statuses and rankings.