

# Abstract

## **Using GIS to Assess Landscape and Bird Guild Associations**

**Track:** Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management

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The Montgomery County Maryland Department of Environmental Protection has been conducting field data collection of nesting birds within randomly selected 1 kilometer circles. This data is collected during the bird breeding season (May through mid-July in Maryland) using a protocol established in the EPA Research Report number 98-4. The department has collected data from about 150 one kilometer circles. Each circle contains 5 sample points. With another 50 points to be sampled in 2003, we will have close to 1000 sample points from a wide variety of landscapes. This data will be used to establish a correlation between bird guilds and different landscapes within the Mid-Atlantic Piedmont Area. All spatial analysis and work toward a Bird Community Index (CBI) are being done using ArcInfo, ArcGIS, and ArcView.

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