

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) Microhabitat Use in Southern Indiana

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This study presents the results of research into habitat use by the Cerulean Warbler, a migratory songbird species that is listed as state-endangered in Indiana, during both the adult and juvenile stages of its life cycle. Adult Cerulean Warbler nest patches and territories were found to have several similar microhabitat features: close proximity to roads, steep slope gradient, and high percentage of tree canopy cover. However, a number of characteristics also differed; territories were located on northeast-facing slopes and possessed vegetative characteristics typical of uneven-aged forest stands, while nest patches were correlated to topographic position and had characteristics of more even-aged stands. Nest success was found to be influenced by several features, including proximity to roadway, height of the nest, and presence of woody vines on the nest tree. Cerulean Warbler fledglings were tracked during the pilot year of a radiotelemetry study in southern Indiana; preliminary findings, including differences between individual movements, are presented herein.