

Long-term monitoring of high elevation understory

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**Abstract:**

This report summarizes preliminary results on the effects of prey abundance on Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) productivity and mating strategy on Mount Mansfield and Stratton Mountain. Preliminary results indicate that prey abundance is positively correlated with productivity and mating strategy.

young due to the short breeding season and harsh climatic conditions associated with high elevation forests. This research was designed to investigate how temporal and spatial variation in insect (i.e., prey) biomass has affected the timing of the breeding season, nesting productivity, number of males feeding at a particular nest, and chick provisioning rates.

**Methods**

both mountains. We found a general trend of increasing prey biomass through June, and decreasing through July, several of the plots also showed an increase in prey biomass in early September.



