



## Globally Important Bird Areas



### *Fort Bragg, North Carolina*

**Ornithological Highlight:** One of the top four sites for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker

**Location:** Just west of Fayetteville

- *Southeastern Coastal Plain* (NABCI Bird Conservation Region #27)
- *South Atlantic Coastal Plain* (PIF Physiographic Area #03)

**Size:** 160,000 acres

**Ownership:** U.S. Army

**Habitats:** longleaf pine savanna

**Land use:** military installation

**Site description:** This military installation, home of the 82nd Airborne Division, is used for training and for military exercises. Much of the facility is covered with longleaf pine savanna.

**Birds:** Fort Bragg has one of the largest known populations of Red-cockaded Woodpecker—some 280 clusters are found on the installation, and the numbers are relatively stable; the woodpecker is also found on some of the adjoining private lands. Brown-headed Nuthatch and Bachman's Sparrow are also found in the pine savanna there.

**Conservation issues:** Training involving use of use by tanks and other armored vehicles can cause soil erosion. The woodpecker colonies are mapped and military maneuvers are conducted to minimize impact to the colonies. About 30,000 acres are burned per year during the growing season to maintain the open pine savanna the bird requires. The fort has the largest natural resources program of any military installation in the country, with a staff of 70 people, including 12 biologists. Management has also brought an increase in the population of Bachman's Sparrow, and there are even a few Lark Sparrows on the grassy areas kept open for paratrooper landing zones.

**Visitor information:** Though the fort is open to traffic on paved roads, all off-road areas are closed to the public.