The Challenge
While maple syrup can look and taste the same, it can come from forests that are managed in dramatically different ways. Park-like maple monocultures may look tidy and increase sap production over the short-term, but support relatively low numbers of birds and bird species. These same forests are also less likely to be able to respond to the stresses of insect outbreaks, disease, or a changing climate.

The Solution
Manage the sugarbush for bird-friendly features that offer great places for birds to forage, hide, and raise their young:

- A diversity of tree species, more than just maple
- Standing dead trees and live trees with cavities, the bigger the better
- Layers of vegetation, from small seedlings on the forest floor to saplings and shrubs, to the canopy overhead
- Logs and branches on the forest floor
- Birds singing!

Habitats

BIRD-FRIENDLY MAPLE

What Can You Do?
Look for the label. To recognize and support participating maple producers for their good work, look for maple syrup containers with the label indicating the syrup was produced in a bird-friendly forest habitat. Maple sugarbushes are inherently good for birds, but forests that are intentionally managed with birds in mind are even better!

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