# BIRD-FRIENDLY MAPLE



## 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!



**Wood Thrush** 

Important Habitat Feature: Abundant saplings and small trees making up a middle forest layer for nesting



Scarlet Tanager

Important Habitat Feature:
Variety of tree species in the forest canopy for foraging insects



Black-throated
Blue Warbler

Important Habitat Feature:
Dense seedlings, saplings, and shrubs in the forest understory for nesting and foraging insects



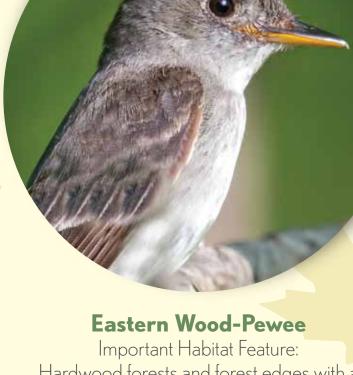
Black-throated Green Warbler

Important Habitat Feature:
Softwood trees in all forest
layers for nesting and
foraging insects



Ovenbird

Important Habitat Feature:
Abundant leaf litter on the forest floor
for nest construction and foraging
for insects, spiders, etc.



Important Habitat Feature:

Hardwood forests and forest edges with a
relatively open understany for flying out from



American Redstart

Important Habitat Feature:
Saplings and shrubs in forest midstory
for nesting and foraging for insects



### Veery

Important Habitat Feature: Saplings and shrubs in forest understory, particularly near wet areas for nesting





**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**Important Habitat Feature:

Trees with large cavities, especially

aspen, for nest excavation

# 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!

vt.audubon.org/maple

