

# BIRD-FRIENDLY MAPLE Habitats



## 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.



### Eastern Wood-Pewee

Important Habitat Feature:  
Hardwood forests and forest edges with a relatively open understory for flying out from high perches to capture insect prey



### Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Important Habitat Feature:  
Trees with large cavities, especially aspen, for nest excavation



### 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



## 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](http://vt.audubon.org/maple)



**Audubon**  
VERMONT



PROJECT PARTNERS