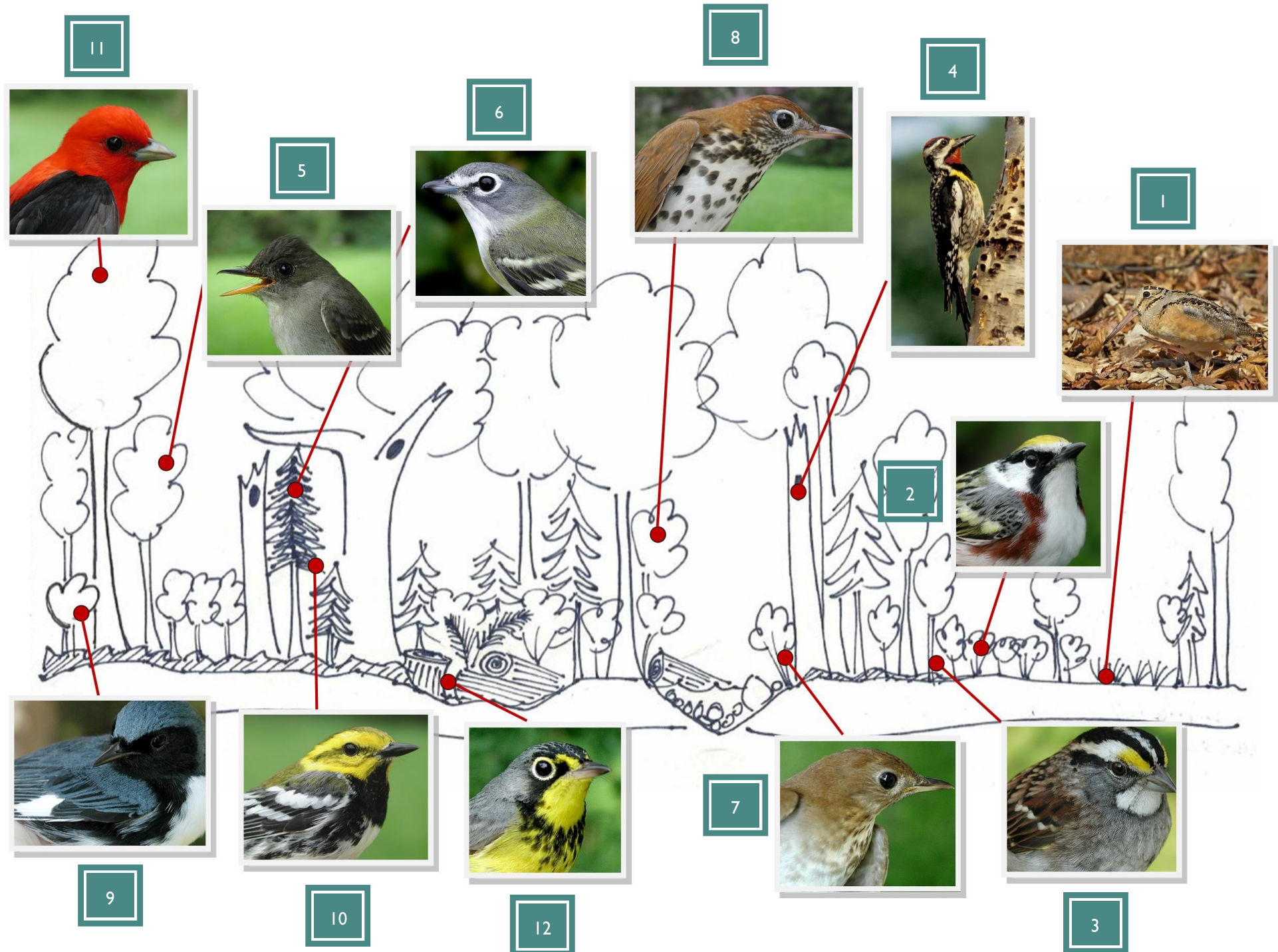


The Birder's Dozen

The Birder's Dozen is twelve of the 40 forest birds that the Audubon Vermont Forest Bird Initiative is working to protect. These twelve birds:

- Have a high percentage of their global breeding populations in our Northern Atlantic Forest.
- Use a variety of forest types and conditions for feeding and breeding. Most nest in complex, diverse mature forest habitats.
- Show serious, long-term declines in their global populations in the case of some species, including wood thrush and Canada warbler.
- Are simple to identify by sight or sound.

We encourage you to get to know the Birder's Dozen and to explore your woods to find out who is residing there!



Bird photos provided courtesy of the Powdermill Avian Research Center, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Charley Eisman & Roy Pilcher.

The Birder's Dozen

VT trends source: *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of Vermont, 2013*. Shown as percent change between first atlas (1977-1981) and second atlas (2003-2007).

1. American Woodcock

Scolopax minor

Habitat: Patches of openings, young forest, and mature forest—preferably near alder swales

VT Trend: Increased 7%; Audubon WatchList

ID Tips: A plump bird with a long bill, no neck & short legs; mottled cryptic coloration

Song: A nasal beeping *peent* heard mostly at dusk; also twittering wing sound when in flight

Management: Create a mix of openings, young forest, and mature forest near alder wetland

2. Chestnut-sided Warbler

Dendroica pensylvanica

Habitat: Young forest or old fields with dense shrub cover & scattered perch trees

VT Trend: Increased 2%

ID Tips: Yellow crown, black moustache stripe & chestnut sides following contour of wings; tail held cocked above wingtips

Song: Fast *Please-please-pleased-to-meet-cha* with emphatic ending

Management: Maintain or create >1 acre patches of young forest

3. White-throated Sparrow

Zonotrichia albicollis

Habitat: Coniferous & mixed forests with openings and shrubby, dense undergrowth

VT Trend: Decreased 8%

ID Tips: White throat with yellow in front of eyes, white & black stripes on head, gray chest

Song: Clear whistled, *Poor Sam Peabody Peabody Peabody*

Management: Create openings with low cover, scattered trees, and brush piles in mixed or coniferous forests

4. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Sphyrapicus varius

Habitat: Mature forest with snags

VT Trend: Increased 8%

ID Tips: Messy barring on back, yellowish wash across belly. Vertical white stripe on side distinguishes it from other woodpeckers

Song: Drum burst of 5 rapid taps followed by gradual slowing double taps; call a *QUEEah*

Management: Retain standing deadwood leaving birch & aspen trees for cavity nesting habitat

5. Eastern Wood-Pewee

Contopus virens

Habitat: Deciduous forests & edges of openings

VT Trend: Decreased 4%

ID Tips: Slender, small headed, & grayish-olive above with dull, white wing-bars; “sallies” for insects (flying out from perch & then back again)

Song: *Plaintive pee-ahh-weee*

Management: Create canopy gaps & dense understory for good foraging

6. Blue-headed Vireo

Vireo solitarius

Habitat: Moist coniferous forests, also may be found in deciduous forests

VT Trend: Increased 10%

ID Tips: Bluish-gray head with strong white spectacles (circles around eyes), greenish back with white belly & yellow-olive flanks

Song: *See you...be-seeing ya'...so long...repeat;* slow with pauses in between phrases

Management: Maintain a closed canopy in coniferous forests

7. Veery

Catharus fuscescens

Habitat: Damp deciduous woods with dense understory

VT Trend: Decreased 1%

ID Tips: Tawny-brown above, weakly spotted on breast; least spotted of all the thrushes

Song: Flute-like & ethereal; ball spiraling down a tube; call an emphatic *vreer!*

Management: Create a broken canopy & dense understory, especially in riparian areas

8. Wood Thrush

Hylocichla mustelina

Habitat: Mature, moist deciduous woods with dense understory & heavy layer of leaf litter

VT Trend: Decreased 6%; Audubon WatchList

ID Tips: Brown back, heavily spotted on white breast; large thrush a little smaller than a Robin

Song: A flute-like *ee-oh-layyy*, ending in a sound like shattering glass

Management: Maintain a closed canopy, well-developed vertical structure, & moist leaf litter in deciduous forests

9. Black-throated Blue Warbler

Setophaga caerulescens

Habitat: Interior hardwood & mixed deciduous-coniferous forests with dense understory

VT Trend: Increased 3%

ID Tips: Deep blue on top with black mask & throat, white wing-patch “handkerchief”

Song: A thick & buzzy *l'm-so-la-zeee* with endnote rising up to the “blue” sky

Management: Create a dense understory for nesting under a broken canopy

10. Black-throated Green Warbler

Setophaga virens

Habitat: Coniferous and mixed forests

VT Trend: Increased 10%

ID Tips: Bright yellow face, olive head & back, black throat drips down sides onto white belly, two white wing-bars

Song: For females males sing *zee-zee-zee-zoo-zee* (also known as *l'm-black-throated-green*); to defend territorial boundaries *zoo-zee-zoo-zoo-zee* (also known as *trees-trees-murmuring-trees*)

Management: Maximize forest interior especially for spruce, fir & white pine

11. Scarlet Tanager

Piranga olivacea

Habitat: Interior deciduous and mixed forests, especially oaks and hemlock

VT Trend: Decreased 2%

ID Tips: Slim, bright red bird with jet black wings & tail (“A black-winged red bird”)

Song: Like a robin with a sore throat; call an abrupt chick-burr

Management: Maximize forest interior; maintain a closed canopy

12. Canada Warbler

Cardellina canadensis

Habitat: Mixed forests, cedar swamps, riparian forests. Favors dense shrubby growth.

VT Trend: Decreased 31%; Audubon WatchList

ID Tips: Necklace of black stripes on bright yellow throat & belly, complete white eye-ring

Song: Often has soft introductory chips, then *l'm-IN-here, but-you-CAN'T-SEE-ME*

Management: Protect forested wetlands; improve vertical structure in mixed forests

