



Priority Birds

The grasslands and shrublands of the Champlain Valley are a globally important resource for many birds that are declining throughout their ranges, including:

- Eastern Meadowlark
- Bobolink
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Eastern Towhee

Audubon Vermont is taking action now to conserve grassland, shrubland, and forest birds at the core of their ranges in Vermont's Champlain Valley.

Top Threats

- Loss of grasslands and shrublands
- Maturation of early-successional forest
- Changes in agricultural practices

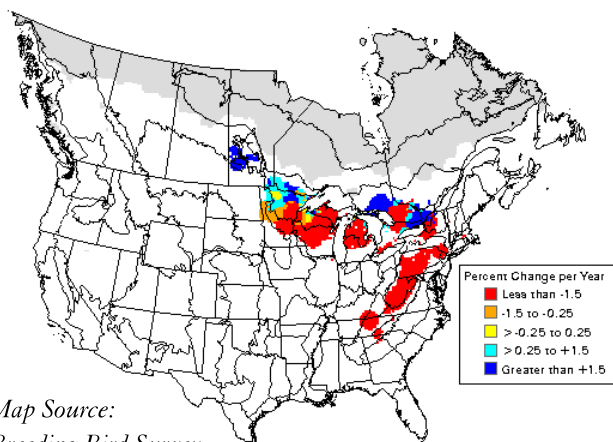
Key Strategies

Since most land in the Champlain Valley is privately-owned, we work directly with landowners to help them proactively manage their fields, forests, and shrublands to protect birds.

- Technical assistance for landowners
- Workshops for landowners and professional land managers
- Demonstration sites of bird-friendly management techniques
- Innovative management practices and incentives developed with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



Over the past 10 years, Golden-winged Warblers have declined 62% in our region. In Vermont, we focus conservation efforts where this species breeds: in the Champlain Valley.



Map Source:
Breeding Bird Survey

Our Successes

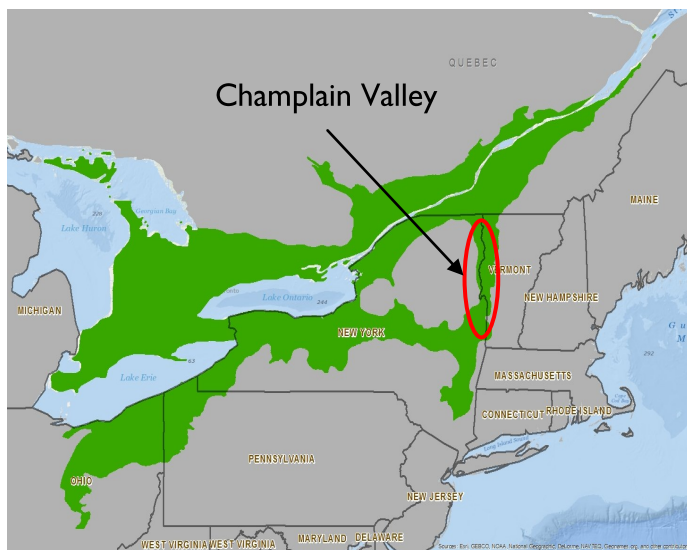
- We have provided more than 100 landowners with habitat assessments and bird-friendly management recommendations on more than 15,000 acres.
- We have surveyed more than 1000 acres of transmission line right-of-way for the Vermont Electric Power Company with help from Audubon Chapters and the University of Vermont. We provided recommendations on how to best manage these corridors for priority bird species.
- We received funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for work on protecting Golden-winged Warbler habitat across this species' range by partnering with five other Audubon state programs along the Atlantic Flyway and in the Midwest.

"My land now supports a number of priority bird species thanks to the recommendations Audubon Vermont provided."

— Curt Alpeter, landowner, Charlotte, VT



We are showing people how to improve habitat for priority birds through actions such as cutting back woody vegetation at demonstration sites including the Green Mountain Audubon Center, Geprag's Park in Hinesburg, and the Charlotte Wildlife Park.



The Champlain Valley is part of an international, multi-state Bird Conservation Region (shown in green) that contains some of the most important grassland, shrubland and wetland bird habitat in the eastern United States (Map Source: Partners in Flight).

How You Can Help

Our work on behalf the Champlain Valley's birds relies on the support and involvement of others, like you. We hope you will get involved today:

- Become a member of Audubon Vermont or make a donation.
- Contact us for more information on how you can implement bird-friendly practices on your property and to see if you are eligible for a habitat assessment.
- Volunteer to help with monitoring and research.
- Attend a workshop or tour at a demonstration site.

Drop by, call or email us today. Visit us online at vt.audubon.org for more information.

Questions? Contact Conservation Program Manager, Mark LaBarr, at mlabarr@audubon.org