

Steps Toward Bird-friendly Forest Management

Learn more. Call Audubon Vermont for additional bird and wildlife management resources and to ask about upcoming workshops offered by Audubon and other conservation organizations.

Call Audubon Vermont for a Forest Bird Habitat Assessment. Find out if your property is in the forest blocks where Audubon is working and if it qualifies for a habitat assessment.

Consult with a professional forester. Ask your consulting forester to update your forest management plan to include goals and actions that help protect and enhance habitat for forest birds. Call your County Forester for general guidance on managing your forest; he or she can connect you with a consulting forester - if you don't already have one - and provide information on other programs that provide forest landowners with technical and financial assistance.

Monitor forest bird populations. Call Audubon Vermont for assistance with keeping track of the bird populations in your forest.

Talk to your neighbors about management for forest bird habitat. Increase the value of your forest as habitat for birds by collaborating with neighboring landowners.



255 Sherman Hollow Road
Huntington, VT 04562
Phone: (802) 434-3068
vermont@audubon.org
Yea-zt.audubon.org



FOREST BIRD INITIATIVE



Keeping Birds



and People



on Common
Ground

Blackburnian Warblers nest in mature coniferous and mixed forests.



Support and Services for Forest Landowners and Managers

Audubon Vermont collaborates with municipalities, community organizations, foresters, and other land managers to incorporate consideration for forest bird habitat into forest and natural resource planning. We also provide technical assistance to individual landowners through the following programs:

Forest Bird Habitat Assessments

Since each forest offers unique opportunities for bird-friendly management, Audubon Vermont's conservation biologists can visit and assess private forests in areas that have been identified as particularly important to breeding forest birds. Each landowner receives information on the existing habitats on their land, as well as practical recommendations for protecting and enhancing habitat for responsibility bird species in their forest.



Forest Bird Monitoring

How will you know if your approach to managing your forest is in fact helping forest birds? Audubon Vermont can help you keep track of the bird species on your property with simple monitoring protocols and by connecting you with knowledgeable Audubon volunteers who can provide assistance and training.

Programs and Demonstrations at the Green Mountain Audubon Center

Audubon Vermont's Green Mountain Audubon Center in Huntington regularly hosts forest bird and wildlife habitat management workshops, trainings, and demonstrations for landowners, as well as other programs. Call Audubon Vermont or visit us online at Yea-zt.audubon.org to learn about upcoming events.

Contact Audubon Vermont

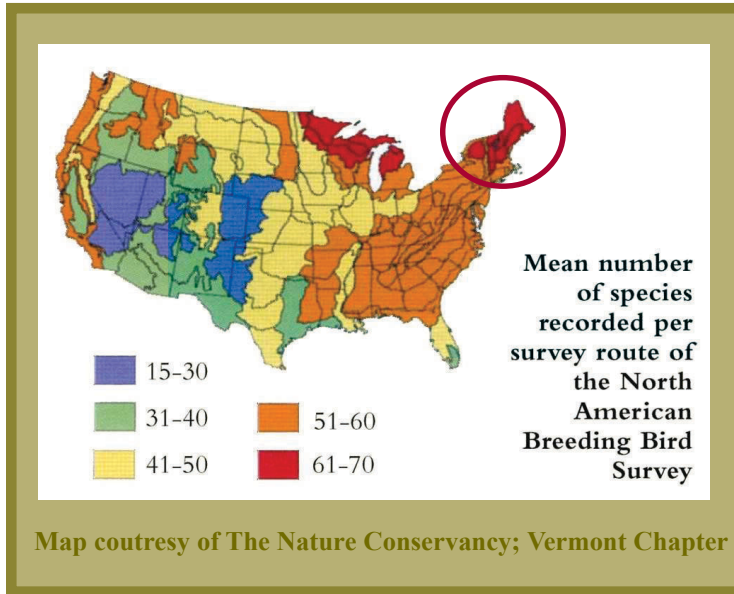
Phone: (802) 434-3068

Email: vermont@audubon.org

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bird photos courtesy of
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Why are our northern forests so special to birds?

Every year, millions of migratory birds make the long journey back to the forests of northern New England from their wintering grounds in Central and South America to nest, breed and raise their young. The eruption of song marking their return is as common a sign of spring as trees leafing out. However, many of these seemingly common northern forest birds, such as the Wood Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, and Canada Warbler are experiencing long-term population declines (*Common Birds in Decline*, National Audubon Society, 2007). Our forests are more important than ever as a refuge from the stresses of habitat loss and degradation.



Our northern forests are home to the highest concentration of bird species breeding in the continental United States

We share our northern forests with as much as 90% of the global breeding populations of dozens of species of migratory birds, including the Bicknell's Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Canada Warbler (Partners in Flight). The North American Bird Conservation Initiative refers to these birds as *responsibility species*; the responsibility of looking out for the future of these birds is in our hands because our forests are the core of their breeding range. Fortunately, because these birds are still common in our region, we have the opportunity to protect and enhance their breeding habitat now before they become threatened or endangered.

Chestnut-sided Warblers nest in young, early-successional, deciduous forest or overgrown fields.



Wood Thrushes nest in mature deciduous forest with a dense understory and thick leaf litter.

How important is private forestland to birds?

Very. Roughly 80% of our region's forests are privately-owned. When considered within the broader landscape, even the smallest properties can be critical parts of the large blocks of forest in our region that support breeding birds. Small actions by individual forest landowners can have a global impact.

Can working forests work for forest birds?

Absolutely, with careful planning and thoughtful implementation. Forest products from timber to maple syrup can generate income that helps landowners to offset the costs of land ownership. In this way, income from forest products helps to protect forest bird habitat by minimizing subdivision and conversion to non-forested uses. In

addition, forest management activities have the potential to enhance habitats for some forest birds. For example, growing and cutting firewood can improve future timber potential in a forest stand while also enhancing understory nesting habitats for Black-throated Blue Warblers.

Black-throated Blue Warblers nest in interior deciduous and mixed forests with a dense understory.



Audubon VERMONT FOREST BIRD INITIATIVE

Audubon Vermont's Forest Bird Initiative is integrating science, education, public policy, and management expertise to conserve forests in our region that are important to birds. In cooperation with many partners, Audubon Vermont is developing strategies for stewarding and monitoring a network of large forest blocks that have been identified as being particularly important breeding habitat for responsibility species in our region. These strategies include supporting policies for land conservation funding, teaching educational programs in schools, communities, and at the Green Mountain Audubon Center, and demonstrating management for wildlife habitat at the Center. Audubon Vermont conservation biologists also provide technical assistance to landowners, land managers, and communities who wish to protect and enhance habitat for forest breeding birds in the forest blocks.