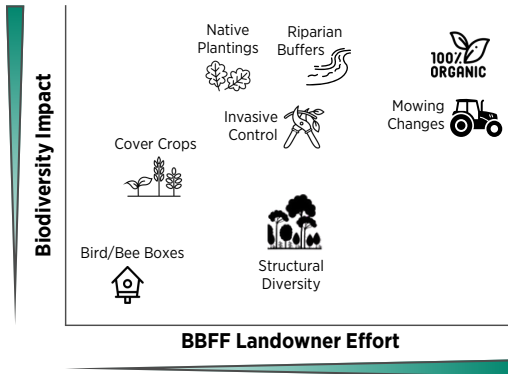


What is Bird and Bee Friendly Farming?

This initiative focuses on enhancing marginal areas out of production (i.e. field edges, hedgerows, and fallow fields) as well as grasslands, forest patches, and riparian areas for native bird and pollinator species that are declining in Vermont.



Bird and Bee Friendly Practices

Farming with birds and pollinators in mind can take many forms. Some practices are easy and low cost to implement, such as installing bird boxes, while others require more sustained effort, such as controlling invasive species.

Make simple changes to existing practices, such as adding pollinator-friendly seed mixes into cover crops that bloom earlier in the spring and offer more diversity and reduce the number of chemical herbicides and pesticides used.

Get Involved

If you manage land and want to help birds and bees, Audubon Vermont offers on-site assessment walks. We'll review your property, provide habitat improvement tips, and connect you with funding and support.

Get Started

Check out our online resources by scanning the QR code below or going to vt.audubon.org/farming:



Then fill out our landowner interest form online or scan the QR code below:



Or reach out directly to our staff:

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WORKING LANDS

Bird and Bee Friendly Farming

Cultivating healthier ecosystems, resilient landscapes, and bird and pollinator habitat on working lands

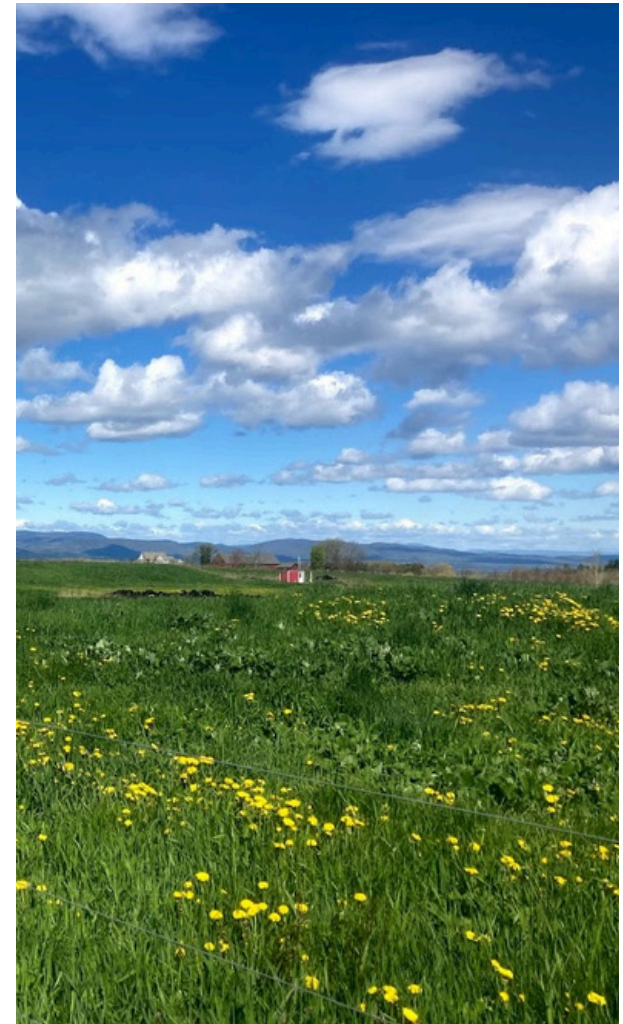




PHOTO: CASEY MCKINNEY/AUDUBON PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS
EASTERN BLUEBIRD & HOUSE FINCH ON INVASIVE NONNATIVE ROSA MULTIFLORA

Invasive Plant Species Removal

Invasive plant species offer suboptimal habitat for birds and pollinators, provide less nutrition, and outcompete native plant species that pollinators and birds depend on.

Remove invasive plants and control their spread on your property.

Common invasive plants in Vermont are:

- Shrub Honeysuckle
- Reed Canary Grass
- Common Buckthorn
- Wild Parsnip
- Japanese Knotweed
- Spotted Knapweed
- Common Reed

Learn about invasive plant ID and control at vtinvasives.org

General Recommendations

General Tips for Bird and Pollinator Friendly Habitat

- **Size:** The larger the area, the better. Set aside 30-foot-wide strips and avoid large gaps since small native bees might only travel 30-150 feet from their nest to forage.
- **Bloom Times:** Plant a variety of early, mid, and late-blooming plant species to ensure pollinators and birds have food throughout the entire growing season.
- **Complexity:** Habitat structure created by mixes height trees and shrubs interspersed with open areas of native grasses and forbs are ideal.
- **Diversity:** Diversity is the key to survival. Many of the pollinators that are more threatened have evolved specifically to feed on one type of native plant or a small group of native plants.

Native Superstar Plants

Some native plants host a greater number of insects, produce fattier, more nutritious berries, or have fruits or seeds that persist through the winter. Here are our favorites:

- **Trees:** Oaks, Black Cherry, Birches, Maples
- **Shrubs:** Willows, Speckled Alder, Dogwoods, Serviceberry, Elderberry, Nannyberry, Blueberry
- **Perennials:** Joe Pye, Goldenrod, Asters

Wildlife Structures

Wild bees, other pollinators, and birds need safe places to build their nests and spend the winters. There are plenty of natural and artificial features that they can utilize.

- **Snags:** Standing dead trees provide great habitat for insects like leafcutter bees and nesting habitat for birds like woodpeckers, chickadees, and swallows.
- **Native Woody Shrubs:** Many native bees spend the winter inside stems and branches of shrubs like raspberry and blackberries.
- **Bird Nest Boxes:** These are easy to construct and widely available commercially. Consider providing nest boxes for birds like American Kestrel, Tree Swallow, and Eastern Bluebird. Boxes should be cleaned every spring!
- **Bee Houses:** These are also easy to construct and widely available commercially. They can be as simple as holes drilled into scrap wood, or they can be designed for different species at once. These should be cleaned yearly when not actively being used.

Learn more about wildlife structures at vtaudubon.org/news/shelter-birds-and-bees

