

# Expert Guidance for Bird-Friendly Forest Management



Black-throated Green Warbler. Photo: Scott Keys/Audubon Photography Awards

## Landowner-Forester Assistance Program

Are you a landowner looking to care for your woods and support forest birds? We offer free, expert assistance to help you and your forester explore stewardship options that benefit birds, wildlife, and your land.

### What we provide:

- Site visits & personalized guidance
- Bird-friendly forestry recommendations
- Collaboration with your forester
- Connections to Audubon-endorsed foresters (if needed)

We work with you and your forester to apply ecological forestry practices that enhance habitat for birds like Wood Thrush and Black-throated Green Warbler.

Expert Guidance	Comprehensive Resources	Collaborative Approach
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### ➞ Eligibility

- ❑ Enduring commitment to forest stewardship
- ❑ Current management plans don't fully address birds or broader wildlife habitat needs (see Bird-Friendly Management Planning Checklist).
- ❑ At least 25 forested acres

### ➞ Apply Now

- 1 Check out our digital resources for an overview of bird-friendly forest management practices
- 2 Review our eligibility criteria and Bird-Friendly Management Planning Checklist with your forester
- 3 Submit an application for technical support

## Connect with us

Find all of our resources for forest landowners and submit an application for technical support on our website.



# Bird-Friendly Management Planning Checklist



Black-throated Blue Warbler. Photo: Eric Peterson/Audubon Photography Awards

## Review your current forest plan and ask your forester about these items

**Tip: search your plans for the underlined terms**

### Property-Wide Considerations

- ☐ Goals, objectives and strategies to manage for the benefit of birds, wildlife, and ecosystem health
- ☐ Consideration of the surrounding landscape (young forest, mature forest, block size, connectivity)
- ☐ Consideration towards the amount of young/early successional forests (<20' tall or <20 years old)
- ☐ Consider the effects and vulnerabilities of a changing climate on your ecosystem

### Stand-Specific Considerations

- ☐ Vertical structural diversity – assessment of overstory, midstory, and understory complexity
- ☐ Native species diversity (at all canopy layers)
- ☐ Invasive species: presence, severity, impacts, and management options
- ☐ Quality of regeneration and challenges to successful regeneration
- ☐ Abundance of snags and cavity trees per acre, including those >12" and >18" DBH
- ☐ Abundance of large diameter or legacy trees (hardwoods >24" and softwoods >20" DBH) per acre
- ☐ Abundance of coarse (>4" diameter and >3' long) and fine downed woody material
- ☐ Presence of softwood inclusions within predominantly hardwood stands
- ☐ Quality/depth of leaf litter
- ☐ Presence of soft and hard mast producing species
- ☐ Presence of unique habitat features (streams, forested wetlands, etc.)

**Your management plan should describe and outline these elements, paired with actions to maintain and address each.**



# Bird-Friendly Forest Management Resources



Blackburnian Warbler Photo: Shirley Donald/Audubon Photography Awards

Download these guides to learn how to steward your forests for birds



**Birds with Silviculture in Mind**

Birder's Dozen Pocket Guide  
for Vermont Foresters

Identification and ecology of and  
management for twelve priority forest birds




**Silviculture with Birds in Mind**


Options for Integrating Timber and Songbird  
Habitat Management in Northern Hardwood  
Stands in Vermont





Managing Your Woods with  
Birds in Mind





A Vermont Landowner's Guide

Audubon Vermont and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation

