

The Birder's Dozen represents twelve of the 39 Responsibility Birds that the Audubon Vermont Forest Bird Initiative is working to protect. These twelve birds use different forested natural communities and use the forest in a variety of ways for feeding and for breeding. Many of these birds are showing a decline in their population and those that are stable should remain stable or ideally increase in population through proper management of our forests. Finally, the Birder's Dozen represents birds that are simple to identify by sight or sound. We encourage you to get to know the Birder's Dozen and explore your property to find out who is residing there! Best used in conjunction with Audubon Vermont's Bird-Friendly Management Recommendations Fact Sheet. Pictures provided courtesy of the following: Pamela Wells at Sunhaze Meadow National Wildlife Refuge, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Powdermill Avian Research Center, & Bill Dyer at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.



American Woodcock

Habitat: Early successional woodlands or grown-in fields; forests with openings
Trend: Declining in VT; National Audubon Society WatchList Bird
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: Retain early successional habitat; maintain thick alder & aspen stands for cover

Scolopax minor



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Habitat: Mixed coniferous & deciduous woodlands
Trend: Declining in New England
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 deadwood leaving birch & aspen trees for cavity nesting habitat

Sphyrapicus varius



Eastern Wood-pewee

Habitat: Deciduous forests & woodland edges
Trend: Declining in New England
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: Enhance vertical structure/understory by controlling deer browsing; use single tree or small group cut to improve understory

Contopus virens



Blue-headed Vireo

Habitat: Moist coniferous forests, also may be found in deciduous forests
Trend: Stable
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: A middle-level forager that will benefit from a diverse understory

Vireo solitarius



Veery

Habitat: Damp deciduous woods with dense understory
Trend: Declining both in VT & region
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: Enhance vertical structure/understory by controlling deer browsing; use single tree or small group cut to improve understory

Catharus fuscescens



Wood Thrush

Hylocichla mustelina

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

Trend: Declining both in VT & region; a National Audubon Society WatchList Bird

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: Improve vertical structure/understory with small canopy gaps



Chestnut-sided Warbler

Dendroica pensylvanica

Habitat: Second growth deciduous woods, early successional forest or overgrown fields

Trend: Declining both in VT & region

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: Retain areas with early successional habitat; use management practices that closely mimic natural disturbances



Black-throated Blue Warbler

Dendroica caerulescens

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

Trend: Stable

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

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

Management: Minimize linear openings (straight roads) & maximize forest interior; needs dense understory for nesting - hobblebush & saplings of striped/sugar maple



Black-throated Green Warbler

Dendroica virens

Habitat: Prefers uninterrupted coniferous forests

Trend: Declining in region

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 *I’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



Canada Warbler

Wilsonia canadensis

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

Trend: Declining both in VT & region; a National Audubon Society WatchList Bird

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

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

Management: Improve riparian buffers, protect cedar swaps & red-maple/conifer swamps



White-throated Sparrow

Zonotrichia albicollis

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

Trend: Declining in region

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: Soften edges between habitats creating brushy growth especially near conifer stands for cover, foraging & nesting; create brushpiles on habitat edges



Scarlet Tanager

Piranga olivacea

Habitat: Interior deciduous forests, especially oaks

Trend: Stable

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 & promote understory growth