



Forest Bird Habitat Assessments

Mass Audubon has been working with Audubon Vermont and other partners to ensure that abundant high-quality breeding habitat for forest birds exists in our region by integrating science, education, public policy, and land management expertise. One of the primary ways we work toward achieving this goal is to collaborate with and provide technical assistance for landowners who wish to protect and enhance habitat for breeding forest birds on the properties they own. Habitat assessments are one of our services that are available to private landowners who are interested in managing their forests with birds in mind.

What is a Forest Bird Habitat Assessment?

A habitat assessment is a rapid field inventory of current forest bird habitat conditions your property conducted by a Mass Audubon trained staff member during the spring or summer months. After the field inventory we put the information from the inventory into a written report along with management options and considerations aimed at enhancing, maintaining, and/or creating quality habitat your property. We take your primary management objectives into full consideration when we make these recommendations. In addition, if you have a forester, we try to work closely with him/her to ensure that our recommendations are relevant to any current or planned management on your property.

Who do we work with?

We work directly with private landowners to conduct habitat assessments on their properties. If possible, we like to work closely with your forester – if you have one – to ensure that our recommendations are relevant to any current or planned management. We can also collaborate with other technical experts, such as NRCS staff, to work toward achieving multiple objectives on your property.

Where do we work?

Mass Audubon is a state-wide organization. Due to the small size of our staff, we prioritize our habitat assessment work on 25+-acre properties in northern Franklin County in Massachusetts.

Is there a charge for a habitat assessment?

No. Habitat assessments are a free service that Mass Audubon provides to landowners thanks to grant funding.

Am I obligated to implement Mass Audubon's recommendations?

No. The assessment and accompanying report is meant to be a resource to help inform forest management if bird habitat is of interest.

What happens after a habitat assessment?

We hope that you will read and enjoy your report, share it with your forester, and consider implementing some of our recommendations. Additional services, resources, educational opportunities, and ongoing support are available to interested landowners through Mass Audubon and our partner organizations.

For additional information, please contact us at birdconservation@massaudubon.org or (781)-259-2192.