

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

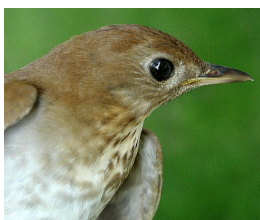
***Contopus virens***



**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*

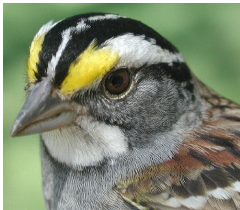
**Habitat:** Mixed forests, cedar swamps, riparian forests. Favors dense shrubby growth.

**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