

Forest Birds

Get to know 10 of the nearly 50 priority forest birds that Audubon is working to conserve in New York.



BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

Photo: Joshua Galicki/Audubon Photography Awards

The populations of many of these birds have declined in recent decades, mostly due to loss of habitat. These 10 birds require different types, ages, and structures of forests for feeding, breeding, and care of fledglings.

Audubon is working across the Atlantic Flyway with forest owners and managers to integrate the habitat needs of birds into forest management planning and activities—to create forests that work for birds and people. Get to know these 10 forest birds and explore your property to find out which of them are residing there!

Photo: Jeff Nadler



AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Scolopax minor*)

Habitat: Early successional woodlands or grown-in fields, forest with openings

Trend: Declining in New York and across its range

ID Tips: A plump bird with a long bill, no neck and short legs; mottled cryptic coloration

Song: A nasal beeping *peent* mostly at dusk; also twittering wing sound when in flight

Management: Retain or manage early successional habitat; maintain thick alder and aspen stands for cover

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (*Setophaga caerulescens*)

Habitat: Interior hardwood and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests, dense understory

Trend: Stable in New York and the Northeastern U.S.

ID Tips: Deep blue on top with black mask and throat; white wing patch

Song: A thick and buzzy *I'm-so-la-zeee* with end note rising upward

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

Photo: Jeff Nadler



Photo: Dale Bonk/
Audubon Photography Awards



CANADA WARBLER (*Cardellina canadensis*)

Habitat: Mixed, often young, forests, cedar swamps, riparian forests with dense shrubs

Trend: Declining in New York and the Northeastern U.S.

ID Tips: Necklace of black stripes on bright yellow throat and 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 swamps and red maple/conifer swamps, and manage for dense undergrowth

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER (*Setophaga caerulescens*)

Habitat: Mature mixed or coniferous forests | **Trend:** Stable or slightly declining in New York and the Northeastern U.S.

ID Tips: Bright yellow face, olive head and back, black throat drips onto white belly | **Song:** For females, males sing zee-zee-zee-zoo-zee; to defend territory, zoo-zee-zoo-zoo-zee | **Management:** Maximize forest interior, especially for spruce, fir, white pine, and eastern hemlock (photo at top)



CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Setophaga pensylvanica*)

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

Trend: Declining slightly in New York and the Northeastern U.S.

ID Tips: Yellow crown, black moustache stripe and chestnut sides following wing contour, tail held cocked above wingtips

Song: Fast please-please-pleased-to-meet-cha with emphatic ending

Management: Retain or create early successional habitat, use management practices that mimic natural disturbance, such as group selection and small patch cuts

PRAIRIE WARBLER (*Setophaga discolor*)

Habitat: Young forest with high densities of shrubs and saplings

Trend: Stable in New York although declining across most of its range

ID Tips: Yellow belly with black streaks on sides, olive green head and back

Song: a rapid series of ascending buzzes.

Management: Create young forest habitat composed of a diverse mix of native shrubs and saplings



ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)

Habitat: Young deciduous or mixed forests, often at edges

Trend: Stable in New York and the Northeastern U.S.

ID Tips: Boldly patterned black, white, and red male; female is drab brown

Song: A rich and sweetly melodic song similar to a Robin's

Management: Create and maintain young forest up to small pole timber

SCARLET Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)

Habitat: Interior deciduous forests, especially oaks

Trend: Declining in New York and the Northeastern U.S.

ID Tips: Slim, bright red bird with jet black wings and tail ("A black-winged red bird")

Song: Like a Robin with a sore throat; call an abrupt *chick-burr*

Management: Maximize forest interior and promote understory growth



VEERY (*Catharus fuscescens*)

Habitat: Damp, often young, deciduous woods with a dense understory

Trend: Declining in New York and the Northeastern U.S.

ID Tips: Tawny-brown above, weakly spotted on breast; least spotted of all the thrushes

Song: Flute-like and ethereal; ball spiraling down a tube; call an emphatic vreer

Management: Enhance vertical structure/understory by controlling deer browsing; use small group selection or shelterwood systems to improve understory

WOOD THRUSH (*Piranga olivacea*)

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

Trend: Declining in New York and across its range

ID Tips: Brown back, heavily spotted on white breast; large thrush a little smaller than a Robin

Song: A flute-like *ee-oh-layy*, ending in a sound like shattering glass

Management: Improve vertical structural diversity (multiple canopy layers) by creating small canopy gaps

