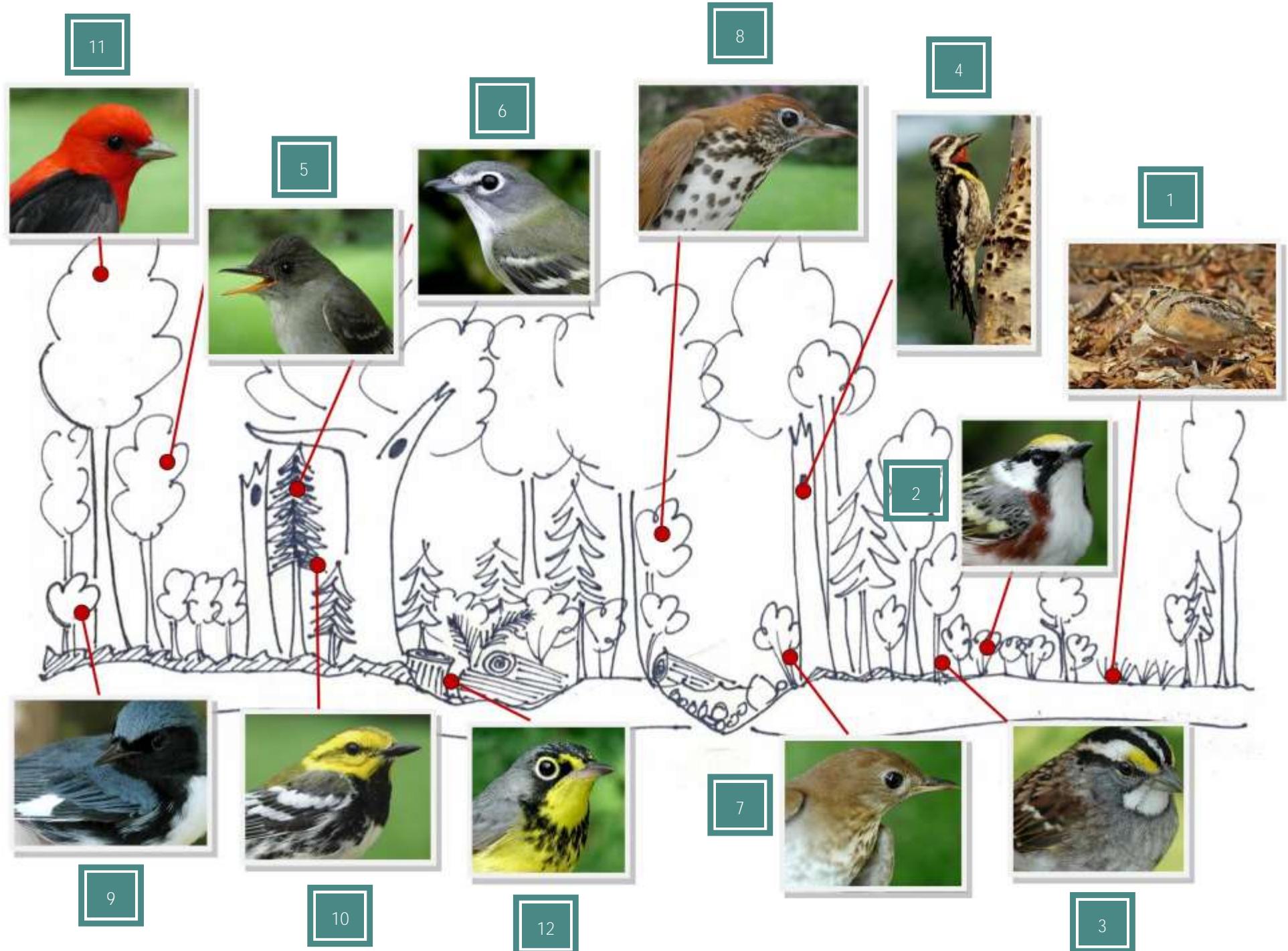


## The Birder's Dozen

The Birder's Dozen includes twelve of the 40 forest birds that the Audubon Vermont Forest Bird Initiative is working to protect. These twelve birds:

- Have a high percentage of their global breeding populations in our Northern Atlantic Forest.
- Use a variety of forest types and conditions for feeding and breeding. Most nest in complex, diverse mature forest habitats.
- In the case of some species, including Wood Thrush and Canada Warbler, are showing serious, long-term declines their global populations.
- Are simple to identify by sight or sound.

We encourage you to get to know the Birder's Dozen and to explore your woods to find out who is residing there!



*Bird photos provided courtesy of the Powdermill Avian Research Center, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Charley Eisman & Roy Pilcher.*

VT trends source: *The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of Vermont, 2013*. Shown as percent change between first atlas (1977-1981) and second atlas (2003-2007).

## 1. American Woodcock

*Scolopax minor*

Habitat: Patches of openings, young forest, and mature forest—preferably near alder swales

VT Trend: Increased 7%; Audubon WatchList

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: Create a mix of openings, young forest, and mature forest near alder wetland

## 2. Chestnut-sided Warbler

*Dendroica pensylvanica*

Habitat: Young forest or old fields with dense shrub cover & scattered perch trees

VT Trend: Increased 2%

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: Maintain or create >1 acre patches of young forest

## 3. White-throated Sparrow

*Zonotrichia albicollis*

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

VT Trend: Decreased 8%

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: Create openings with low cover, scattered trees, and brush piles in mixed or coniferous forests

## 4. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

*Sphyrapicus varius*

Habitat: Mature forest with snags

VT Trend: Increased 8%

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 standing deadwood leaving birch & aspen trees for cavity nesting habitat

## 5. Eastern Wood-Pewee

*Contopus virens*

Habitat: Deciduous forests & edges of openings

VT Trend: Decreased 4%

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: Create canopy gaps & dense understory for good foraging

## 6. Blue-headed Vireo

*Vireo solitarius*

Habitat: Moist coniferous forests, also may be found in deciduous forests

VT Trend: Increased 10%

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 yo?...so long...repeat;* slow with pauses in between phrases

Management: Maintain a closed canopy in coniferous forests

## 7. Veery

*Catharus fuscescens*

Habitat: Damp deciduous woods with dense understory

VT Trend: Decreased 1%

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: Create a broken canopy & dense understory, especially in riparian areas

## 8. Wood Thrush

*Hylocichla mustelina*

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

VT Trend: Decreased 6%; Audubon WatchList

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: Maintain a closed canopy, well-developed vertical structure, & moist leaf litter in deciduous forests

## 9. Black-throated Blue Warbler

*Setophaga caerulescens*

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

VT Trend: Increased 3%

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: Create a dense understory for nesting under a broken canopy

## 10. Black-throated Green Warbler

*Setophaga virens*

Habitat: Coniferous and mixed forests

VT Trend: Increased 10%

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

## 11. Scarlet Tanager

*Piranga olivacea*

Habitat: Interior deciduous and mixed forests, especially oaks and hemlock

VT Trend: Decreased 2%

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; maintain a closed canopy

## 12. Canada Warbler

*Cardellina canadensis*

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

VT Trend: Decreased 31%; Audubon WatchList

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: Protect forested wetlands; improve vertical structure in mixed forests