

# FORESTERS FOR THE BIRDS

## Massachusetts

The forests of New England are vital for the survival and reproduction of many birds, such as the Chestnut-sided Warbler and Wood Thrush. Yet numerous forest birds have undergone a drastic decline in numbers, raising concerns among conservationists. These declines can be attributed in part to the current habitat conditions found in our forests. Creating and maintaining hospitable habitat will be key to sustaining our forest birds, and doing so requires engagement and action.

### Foresters for the Birds at Mass Audubon

Mass Audubon has partnered with the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute to bring Audubon Vermont's Foresters for the Birds program to Massachusetts.

Our Foresters for the Birds program trains foresters to assess the existing bird habitat in a forest, make recommendations for improvement, and plan out bird-friendly management strategies. Empowering landowners to manage for birds is important because about 75% of our forests in Massachusetts are privately owned. Therefore, enabling management on these lands can greatly contribute to the conservation of our forest birds.

If you or someone you know owns 10 acres of forest or more, please consider implementing bird-friendly forestry in your woods.

Learn more at:  
[www.massaudubon.org/forestbirds](http://www.massaudubon.org/forestbirds) and  
<http://www.masswoodlands.org/programs/foresters-for-the-birds/>



From top left: Wood Thrush, Northern Bobwhite, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Eastern Towhee © John Sill

## Quick Tips

### Bird-friendly Best Management Practices

With or without bird-conscious practices integrated in a forest management plan, there are Bird-friendly Best Management Practices that will benefit forest-breeding birds:

- Operate outside of the breeding season (mid-April to late August in Massachusetts).
- Leave it messy! Avoid a park-like condition. Leave some tops, slash and coarse woody material. Birds will use these for cover, singing perches, and foraging.
- Protect wetlands in your woods. A number of bird species rely on forested swamps and other wetland habitat such as stream banks.