

Bay-breasted Warbler



Photo: Laura Gooch

IDENTIFICATION AND SONG Small forest songbird with a chestnut cap, throat, and sides, blackish face with conspicuous cream-colored patch on back and side of neck, gray back with black stripes, and two broad, white wingbars. Song is a high thin teesi-teesi-teesi-teesi, without change in pitch or volume. Found in all but extreme southern Maine.

NEST Open cup located on horizontal branch of dense conifer 16–25' above ground, usually in spruce or fir, but occasionally in pine or hardwood.

FOOD Insects and spiders. Spruce budworm specialist.

TERRITORY SIZE 4–9 acres, much smaller (0.5 acres) during budworm outbreaks.

FOREST CONDITION Dense softwood specialist; prefers older stands. May breed in younger mixedwood stands during spruce budworm outbreaks. May be sensitive to forest composition across the landscape.

FOREST HABITAT ASSOCIATION Prefers *Northern Softwood*, but will use Northern Mixedwood forest.

HABITAT AGE CLASS Prefers *older* forest (dominant trees 70-100 years old and 10-16" diameter), but will use *intermediate* forest (dominant trees 20-70 years old and 5-10" diameter) or *young* forest (dominant trees 0-10 years/0-25 years old and <1"/1-5" diameter).

HABITAT FEATURES



Generalized graphic depicting forest type, age, layer, and any special features where the bird and nest are typically found.

LAYERS Light gray lines divide overstory (>30'), midstory (6–30'), and understory (<6'), and are not to scale

← **BIRD** Layer where bird typically seen and/or where male typically sings

← **NEST** Typical nest type and height

MANAGEMENT NOTES Maintain mature softwood stands with tall trees, high canopy cover and dense midstory. Spruce budworm specialist, will use younger forests if spruce budworm present.