

# Black-throated Blue Warbler



Photo: Richard Fournier

**IDENTIFICATION AND SONG** Deep blue on top with black mask and throat and white wing-patch. Song is a thick and buzzy *I'm-so-la-zeee* (or *beer-beer-beer-beeee*) with endnote rising up to the “blue” sky. Found statewide.

**NEST** Open cup of bark strips and vegetation, often bound together with spider web and placed in the fork of a sapling or shrub within a dense shrub understory (0–6’).

**FOOD** Insectivorous, feeding largely on moth and butterfly larvae and adults.

**TERRITORY SIZE** From 2.5–10 acres, smaller where there is dense/diverse understory.

**FOREST CONDITION** Prefers larger contiguous tracts (>250 acres) with 50–80% canopy cover, trees >40’ tall, and a variety of tree sizes and ages. Prefers dense understory of hobblebush and/or small saplings of sugar maple, striped maple, beech, or softwoods.

**FOREST HABITAT ASSOCIATION** Prefers *Northern Hardwood* and *Northern Mixedwood*, but will use Oak Pine 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).

## HABITAT FEATURES



**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

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

**MANAGEMENT NOTES** Maintain or create NH or NM stands with 50-80% canopy cover and dense understory. Responds well to low-intensity cutting where canopy is closed and openings allow for patches of regeneration. Prefers larger forest blocks (>250 acres).