

Northern Parula



Photo: Peter Caulfield

IDENTIFICATION AND SONG Small warbler, mainly blue-gray above with two conspicuous white wing-bars, a partial white eye-ring, light greenish-yellow triangular patch on back; throat and breast yellow; belly white. Song a series of one or more rising buzzy notes dropping abruptly at the end, bzzzzz-zip or bz-bz-bz-zip. Found statewide.

NEST Most nests built in hanging bunches of bearded lichen (*Usnea* spp.), so the presence of these epiphytes is critically important. Preferred nest sites usually near water. Nests tend to be located at the end of a branch, usually 10–20' high.

FOOD Primarily gleans insects and spiders, sometimes eats berries or seeds.

TERRITORY SIZE 0.5–1.0 acre.

FOREST CONDITION Prefers tall, older softwood forests (especially spruce, fir, and hemlock) in moist habitats where bearded lichen (*Usnea* spp.) is abundant, including riparian areas, coastal forests, bogs, and swamps. Prefers canopy cover >80% and tall trees (>50'). Will use hardwood and mixedwood forests of varying age throughout range. Prefers large forest blocks (>250 acres).

FOREST HABITAT ASSOCIATION Prefers *Northern Softwood*, but will use Northern Hardwood and 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).

HABITAT FEATURES



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

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

← **NEST** Typical nest type and height

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

MANAGEMENT NOTES Maintain larger (>250 acres) blocks of tall, mature coniferous forest. Presence of bearded lichen essential.