

Volunteers Needed

Audubon Connecticut is recruiting volunteers to assist with Forest Bird Habitat Assessments in and around the Lyme Forest Block (LFB) Important Bird Area. Volunteers are required to attend a full day of training on **Sunday, April 19, 2020**, which will provide the know-how to conduct Habitat Assessments on small privately-owned properties in the towns of Salem, East Haddam, Lyme, and Colchester.

WHAT IS A HABITAT ASSESSMENT?

A habitat assessment is an inventory of current songbird and habitat conditions on a property.

WHO CAN BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

Environmental college students, master gardeners, local land trust members, retired foresters, and champions for birds and other wildlife who are committed and engaged in learning!

At the required training, Audubon staff and a certified forester teach volunteers how to conduct a Forest Bird Habitat Assessment on small private properties.

Topics include:

- Bird species identification (The Birders Dozen)
- Tree/shrub identification (5 species of each)
- Invasive plant identification (5 species)
- Horizontal/vertical diversity
- Canopy gaps
- Hard/soft edges
- Value of snags, berry and seed producing plants, insects etc.

Volunteers leave the training day with information packets, detailed pictures, and a thumb drive with information learned/to be learned.

Following the training day, volunteers team up and walk a property with an Audubon staff member and a forester. A follow-up workshop for questions and answers is also scheduled. This workshop allows volunteers to put together their new knowledge from the training day, combined with their first walk on a property assessment, and fill in any gaps or questions they may have. Then volunteers are assigned a property to assess on their own or with a partner.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING AN AUDUBON VOLUNTEER?

Use what you learn to enhance your town's preserves, open spaces, and give back to the community by sharing your newly learned knowledge. College students can use volunteering for scholarship opportunities. The training you receive may open doors for future projects with Audubon Connecticut!

CONTACT US

For more information and to sign up to become a bird habitat assessor, please contact Kelly Morgan at kelly.morgan@audubon.org

or call 860-234-7630