

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HABITAT IN BIRD CONSERVATION  
REGION14

### Introduction

The Black-throated blue warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) is a common to fairly common breeder in BCR 14. It prefers deciduous or mixed woodlands with a thick understory of shrubs or saplings. It is listed as a “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” in BCR 14 in the Wildlife Action Plan of at least one state in BCR 14.

### Habitat Needs

This bird prefers large tracts of northern hardwood forest with a dense understory of coniferous or deciduous shrubs or saplings. It will use pole-sized or larger size classes. The thick understory component is the key habitat feature for this species.

Its territory size is about five acres.

### Habitat Management Practices

The habitat management objective for this species would be to maintain a dense shrub or sapling understory in northern hardwood stands. This condition should be created or maintained in areas of twenty-five acre or more.

When assessing properties for habitat potential, look for strong hardwood producing soils such as Berkshire, Charlton, Peru, Bernadston, Paxton or Woodbridge. There are others depending on where in BCR 14 you are working.

Recommended Silvicultural Treatments include:

Thinning or improvement cuts in large pole or small sawtimber stands.

Shelterwood cuts, particularly the first two cuts of the three cut system.