

# The Bottomland Baker's Dozen

**The Bottomland Baker's Dozen** represents the 13 Priority Birds that Audubon's Bird-Friendly BMP's for Bottomland Forest in the Carolinas initiative is working to protect. Populations of many of these beauties have declined, but with forest management sensitive to meeting their habitat needs, those numbers can be stabilized or increased. With practice, these birds may be identified by sight and sound. We encourage you to get to know them and explore your property to find out which are residing there!



**Prothonotary Warbler**

*Protonaria citrea*

**Habitat:** Wooded swamps, backwaters, river edges

**Trend:** Declining population regionally and nationally

**ID Tips:** Males with bright yellow head and chest, gray wings. Females a more drab olive green with gray wings

**Song:** A clear and bright sweet, sweet, sweet, sweet

**Management:** Prefers hollows in undisturbed woods, but can tolerate thinning to a canopy closure of 60-70%



**Swainson's Warbler**

*Limnothlypis swainsonii*

**Habitat:** Understory thickets in swamps and stream bottoms and thick woodland brush

**Trend:** Population recovering regionally and nationally

**ID Tips:** Brown/olive above, grayish below. Pale eyebrow between brown crown and eyeline

**Song:** A series of thin, slurred whistles often ending in a rising tee-oh

**Management:** The more dense the vegetation, the better. Small 2-10 acre clear cuts on high bottomland sites



**Acadian Flycatcher**

*Empidonax virescens*

**Habitat:** Shady deciduous forests, swampy woods in open mid-story

**Trend:** Declining population regionally and nationally

**ID Tips:** Olive above, with yellow eye ring/lower bill, buffy wing bars, underside grayish/pale yellow

**Song:** A short and bright peet-sa

**Management:** Prefer mature woods, but can tolerate canopy reduction to 60-70% closure



**Chimney Swift**

*Chaetura pelagica*

**Habitat:** Open sky. Nest in large hollow trees

**Trend:** Declining population regionally and nationally

**ID Tips:** Small dark brown cigar-shaped body, short stubby tail and swept back wings. Rarely seen perched

**Song:** A rollicking exuberant chatter of staccato chip notes, usually descending

**Management:** Leave standing hollow and hollow dead trees if possible



**Hooded Warbler**

*Wilsonia citrine*

**Habitat:** Wooded undergrowth, laurel thickets, wooded swamps

**Trend:** Population stable or climbing currently

**ID Tips:** Olive back and yellow chest/belly/face. Full black hood in male, less in female

**Song:** A loud, musical ta-wit ta-wit ta-wit tee-yo

**Management:** Prefer woods thin enough to promote brushy, thick undergrowth or patch clearings



**Northern Parula Warbler**

*Parula americana*

**Habitat:** Breeds in humid woods where Spanish Moss occurs

**Trend:** Declining population regionally

**ID Tips:** Gray/blue back, yellow/green upper back, bright yellow throat & breast. Red/black chest band in male

**Song:** A rising buzzy trill ending with an abrupt lower zip

**Management:** Prefer woods of many types, usually mature and moist ones where Spanish Moss grows



**Kentucky Warbler**

***Oporornis formosus***

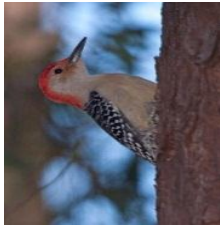
**Habitat:** Woodland undergrowth

**Trend:** Stable population regionally, declining nationally

**ID Tips:** Yellow spectacles between black cap & side of face/neck. Olive back & yellow below. Females duller

**Song:** A rapid series of rolling musical notes, *tadaree, tadaree, tadaree*, similar to Carolina Wren

**Management:** Prefer woods thin enough to promote brushy, thick undergrowth or patch clearings



**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

***Melanerpes carolinus***

**Habitat:** Mature pine and hardwood forest

**Trend:** Climbing population regionally and nationally

**ID Tips:** Black and white barred back, white face/chest/belly, red crown and nape in males, red nape in females

**Song:** A rolling almost clucking *churr churr churr* and a loud, high pitched, rapid *yip-yip-yip-yip-yip*

**Management:** Thrive in forest maintained with individual tree selection to a canopy closure of 60-70%



**White-eyed Vireo**

***Vireo griseus***

**Habitat:** Wood edges, brush, brambles, dense undergrowth, understory thickets

**Trend:** Stable population regionally and nationally

**ID Tips:** Grayish olive above, white below, pale yellow sides, white wing bars and eyes, yellow spectacles

**Song:** A loud, scolding *chip chip-a-ta-wee chick*

**Management:** Prefer woods thin enough to promote brushy, thick undergrowth or patch clearings



**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

***Coccyzus americanus***

**Habitat:** Mature riparian woodlands, swamps and bottomlands

**Trend:** Declining population regionally and nationally

**ID Tips:** Grayish-brown above, white below, yellow lower bill, reddish lower wings, patterned undertail

**Song:** Sounds hollow/wooden, rapid staccato *kuk-kuk-kuk*, slows, descends to *kut-a-cook kut-a-cook*

**Management:** Prefer mature woods, but can tolerate canopy reduction to 60-70% closure



**Yellow-Throated Warbler**

***Dendroica dominica***

**Habitat:** Open woodlands. Prefers the crowns of the tallest trees

**Trend:** Growing population regionally and nationally

**ID Tips:** Bright yellow throat/upper breast, white wing bars/underside, blue-gray above, black/white mask

**Song:** A series of clear descending *cheer, cheer, cheer, cheer* followed by rapid, ascending *cheercheercheer*

**Management:** Retain a scattered selection of super-emergent trees (e.g. Bald Cypress or Loblolly)



**Yellow-throated Vireo**

***Vireo flavifrons***

**Habitat:** Deciduous woodlands, shade trees, particularly oaks

**Trend:** Growing population regionally and nationally

**ID Tips:** Bright yellow spectacles/throat/breast, white belly, wing bars. Olive upper and gray lower back

**Song:** A slow and slurred *dearie-deer* followed by a short pause and then a rising *three-eight*

**Management:** Do best in large areas of mature closed canopy, interior forest



**Swallow-tailed Kite**

***Elanoides forficatus***

**Habitat:** Wooded river swamps and adjacent pine lands. Nests in super-emergent trees often pine or cypress

**Trend:** Population recovering regionally and nationally

**ID Tips:** White head/body and forewings, black back/rear wings/tail, distinctive long forked tail seen in flight

**Song:** A very high pitched and thin *kwi-kwi-kwi-kwi*

**Management:** Retain a scattered selection of super-emergent trees (e.g. Bald Cypress or Loblolly)