

Pollinator  
Garden

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Parking

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North Road

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MLT Office

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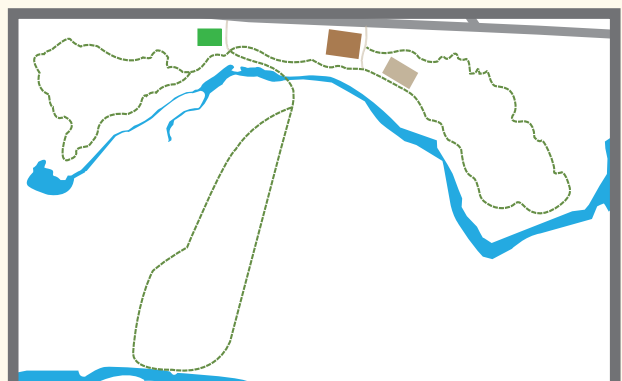
## Search for Signs

This exhibit is designed to help you find and identify birds commonly found on Mahoouc Land Trust's Valentine Farm. To help you in your search, 25 realistically painted bird signs have been placed along the trail in the habitat each bird prefers. Some of these signs are harder to spot than others. How many can you find?

## Look and Listen

The birds in this guide are numbered. Look for each bird sign in its habitat, marked by the numbers on the map. At each sign, take a moment to notice your surroundings. What is the habitat like? What plants, trees or shrubs are around? Is the bird sign low to the ground or up high?

Depending on the time of year and with a little luck, you may hear or see the actual living birds on your search. Take time to listen to the described songs and calls, especially for those hard-to-see birds in the treetops.





**1. Chipping Sparrow**

Look for them around the open fields by the parking lot. They often sit and sing from the white pines along the road. Their song is a mechanical trill.

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**2. Black-Capped Chickadee**

Maine's state bird is often found with other similar sized birds, including nuthatches and titmice. Listen for "chickadee-dee-dee" or a two-note call that sounds like "sweet heart."

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**3. Eastern Phoebe**

When perched, a phoebe pumps its tail up and down. Their song is a loud, persistent, and repeating "feebee."

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**4. White-Breasted Nuthatch**

Often seen climbing on the sides of trees or hanging upside down on a branch. Their song is a wheezy "hank, hank."

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**5. Red-Breasted Nuthatch**

Look for this colorful nuthatch on the limbs of evergreen trees. Their song sounds like the "toot, toot" of a toy trumpet.

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**6. Robin**

Their bright musical song is familiar in the spring and is often described as "cheer-ree, cheer up cheer-ree, cheer up."

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**7. Blue Jay**

This social member of the crow family often mates for life. They make a variety of calls, including the most familiar "jay, jay" call.

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**8. Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker**

This woodpeckers drills holes to feed on flowing sap and insects. In addition to their mewing call, they also produce a slow, steady drum that sounds like someone knocking on a door or morse code.



**9. Purple Finch**

Present at Valentine Farm year-round, although less common in winter as it roams far and wide searching for seeds in conifer trees. The purple finch's song is a long and complex warbling.

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**10. Goldfinch**

Goldfinches travel in small flocks along forest edges. Listen for a call that sounds like "potato chip" made while flying.

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**11. Blue-headed Vireo**

Can be hard to see as they are often high in a tree obscured by leaves. Listen for a clear, slurred whistle which sounds like "see me - in the tree - here I am."

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**12. Tree Swallow**

They fly in graceful looping circles over fields and ponds catching insects on-the-wing. Listen for their scratchy, "t-zeev, t-zeev, t-zeev" call as they fly.

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**13. Black-throated Blue Warbler**

This warbler spends much of its time in the dense understory. The male has a distinct buzzy song that sounds like he is singing, "I'm so lazy."

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**14. Northern Saw-whet Owl**

New England's tiniest owl, they hunt at night for small mammals, birds and insects. Listen for a distinct repeated "toot, toot, toot" call that sounds like an alarm or radar pinging.

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**15. Downy Woodpecker**

Look for small holes or flaked-off bark on trees where they have been hunting for insects. Both males and females make a whinnying call. They also drum on trees to attract attention.

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**16. Grey Catbird**

Catbirds make a variety of songs and often mimic other sounds. Their usual call sounds like a cat meowing, hence the name.

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**17. Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

Look for them high in the deciduous trees as you walk toward the Pollinator Garden. Both males and females sing a beautiful flutey whistling song.

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**18. Song Sparrow**

Look for this sparrow searching for insects, berries and seeds in the open fields, marshes, and at the garden at Valentine Farm. Its long song consists of a series of buzzes and trills.

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**19. Belted Kingfisher**

They catch fish, insects, frogs & crayfish by diving into the water and grabbing prey. Belted kingfishers can often be seen flying over the creek or river making a mechanical rattling call.

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**20. Common Yellowthroat**

You will find this warbler searching for insects low to the ground in among brushy thickets and wetlands. Often heard before seen, listen for the male's song sounding like "witchety, witchety, witchety."

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**21. Indigo Bunting**

Being opportunistic feeders, they eat a variety of insects, berries and seeds. The male sings a series of high-pitched notes repeated in pairs "what-what, where-where, see it-see it."

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**22. Veery**

This thrush feeds mostly on the ground. Male birds have a warning call that sounds like their name, "Veer." Their song has a flute-like quality and descends in pitch.

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**23. Chestnut-sided Warbler**

A warbler commonly found in shrublands and early successional forests, it often stops returning as these areas become mature forests. They have a loud song which sounds like "pleased, pleased-to-meetcha."

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**24. American Woodcock**

Sometimes called a timberdoodle, this unusual shorebird inhabits broad-leaf forests, although clearings are also required for male spring courtship flights.

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**25. Yellow Warbler**

This insect eater can often be seen in the thickets along the stream. Their musical whistles sound like "sweet, sweet, sweeter than sweet."

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# Valentine Farm Birding Trail

An initiative of Habitat For All, signature education program of the Mahoosuc Land Trust



Illustrated by Becca Hoskins