

Audubon Land Trust Collaboration Meeting
Middlebury College
November 7, 2017

The Land Collaboration Meeting was focused mainly on the golden wing warbler and protecting/creating their habitats. The Golden Wing Warbler is restricted to the Champlain Valley (with migration patterns to parts of Latin America).

Take Aways from the Meeting:

1. There are hybrids of the golden wing and blue wing warblers within the Champlain Valley.
2. True species of the golden wing warbler reside in the Manitoba area (Canada).
3. The warbler favors hardwood trees vs soft wood trees.
4. Audubon is working with TNC and Fish and Wildlife to protect and create the warbler's habitat through land preservation or managing overgrown areas to be more conducive to the warbler. Warblers prefer patchy, open grass areas (shrublands). They are ground nesting birds.
5. Audubon would like to further collaborate with local land trusts and conservation commissions in order to push these efforts forward. Their best management practices benefit other species as well (for example, the bobcat).
6. There was mention of Habitat Stamp Money which is managed and allocated by VT Fish and Wildlife. They encourage the purchase of these stamps. The money goes to surrounding conservation efforts.
7. It would be beneficial to reach out to private landowners who may own acres of land, which warblers live in, or which could be turned into a more conducive environment for warbler living.
8. Provide Workshops and/or Site visits for private landowners
9. Fish and Wildlife mentioned Equip as a way for private landowners to apply for funding that could have their land managed for specific efforts (for a particular species)
10. Habitat Maps are useful in identifying and prioritizing properties for future protection
11. Audubon would like to assist Land Trusts in acquiring properties to be protected.
12. Audubon could create a template brochure which can be catered to each town
13. The Grassland Birds in Charlotte Brochure was presented at the meeting as a good example of an informative brochure.
14. A joint meeting between the Audubon, the Charlotte Land Trust and the Charlotte Conservation Commission will occur in the near future, to discuss possible next steps