

Canada Warbler

Wilsonia canadensis

STATUS	Threatened 	Not Listed 
Threatened 	Endangered 	Not Listed 



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Species Description

The Canada Warbler is a small (12-15 cm long) songbird with a thin, pointed bill. Its underparts are bright yellow, and its upperparts are gray. White markings are absent on the wings and tail. It has large black eyes that are surrounded by a thin white ring. There is a horizontal yellow streak between the bill and the eye. Males have darker, bluish-grey upperparts, black markings on the head and a prominent necklace of black streaks across the breast. In females and juveniles, these markings are gray and less distinct.



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Occurs throughout the Maritime provinces. Winters in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil (mostly east of the Andes).



Habitat

The Canada Warbler is found in moist and wet deciduous, coniferous and mixed wood habitats. It is often found in areas with Red Maple, Spruce, and Cinnamon Fern, but occurs in a variety of habitats. This includes areas within regenerating and old-growth forests where the tree canopy is open enough to support tall shrub thickets and the forest floor is covered in Sphagnum moss.



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The Canada Warbler breeds in the Maritime provinces from late May to mid August in forested wetlands.

Interesting Points

- Approximately 75% of the world's Canada Warblers breed in Canada!
- One the last songbirds to return to Canada each spring, and one of the first to migrate south.
- Overwinters in mature and second-growth cloud and rainforests. Up to 95% of its mountain forest habitat has been lost over the past 40 years due to agricultural conversion.
- Lays 4-5 eggs in nests on the ground in dense undergrowth.



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Threats to Survival

- Overwintering and breeding habitat loss and degradation (from urban development, agricultural and forestry activities, and wetland drainage).
- Habitat fragmentation (from forestry activities).
- Road development.
- Declines in insect outbreak cycles.



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Similar Species

Magnolia Warbler:

Black stripes also run down its breast; however, it has white bars on its wings, and no yellow near its eye.



© HANS TOOM (FIRST TWO)

Nashville Warbler:

White eye ring present; however, it has a plain yellow throat and breast with no black necklace.



Common Yellowthroat:

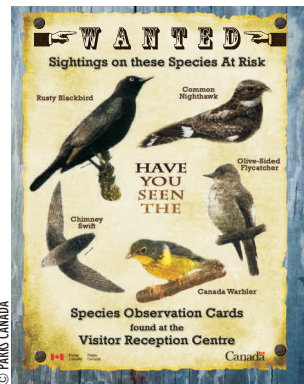
Females have similar colouration but lack the necklace. Males have a black mask.



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How You Can Help

Learn to recognize this species and report your sightings to eBird. Woodlot and landowners can maintain forested swamps and shrubby forest thickets on their properties, leave dead trees (snags) standing for male Canada Warblers to sing from, and avoid draining wetlands.



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Report your bird sightings to eBird

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: Environment Canada (506) 364-5044 ext. 5060 or www.ec.gc.ca

Info: www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Sighting Reports: eBird.org

Stewardship: Bird Studies Canada 1-888-448-2473, www.bsc-eoc.org