

# Canada Warbler

*Wilsonia canadensis*

**STATUS**

Threatened 

Endangered 

35



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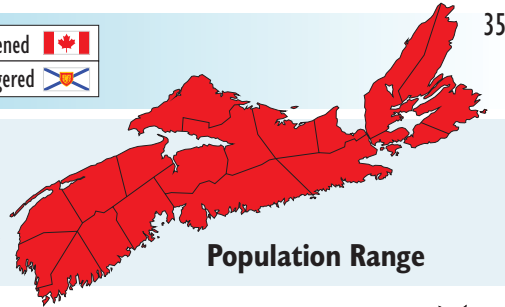
## Species Description

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 grey. 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 grey and less distinct.



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Occurs throughout Nova Scotia. Winters in Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil. Declined by 85% over the last 40 years.



**Population Range**

## Habitat

Found in moist and wet deciduous, coniferous and mixed wood habitats with a well-developed shrub layer. 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 Nova Scotia 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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## 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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## 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.

## 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 or [www.ec.gc.ca](http://www.ec.gc.ca)

**Info:** [www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca), Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas: [www.mba-aom.ca](http://www.mba-aom.ca)

**Sighting Reports:** eBird.org, 1-866-727-3447; [www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings)

**Stewardship:** Bird Studies Canada 1-888-448-2473, [www.bsc-eoc.org](http://www.bsc-eoc.org)