

Black-throated Green Warbler

Dendroica virens

General Information:

-Like many in its family, the individual Black-throated Green Warbler sings two different songs, but in two different contexts; one in the vicinity of the female or nest and the other near the territorial boundaries or when stimulated by another male. It is the only warbler in the eastern US with bold yellow cheeks. The female is similar to the male but shows fewer black streaks on the sides of her body, less black on her throat, and has a yellowish chin and upper throat.

Song:

-A throaty *trees-trees-whispering-trees* (the territorial/male interaction song) and a hoarse *zay-zay-zay-zoo-zeee* (the pair bonding/nest vicinity song).

Behavior:

-Solitary or in pairs, this little warbler forages at mid-level in vegetation and in the interior of branches, usually not at the tips. Gleans from twigs and foliage; hover-gleans and may hawk flying prey. Eats adult insect, caterpillars, larvae, and some berries, particularly in migration.



Breeding:

-Monogamous and solitary.

Nesting:

-Incubation 12 days by female. The 1-2 broods per year of altricial young are brooded by the female, remain in the nest for 8-10 more days, and both sexes help with the feeding, but the female does more of it.

Population:

-Fairly common in a variety of habitats of conifer, mixed deciduous-conifer, and deciduous woodlands. Some winter regularly in southern Florida. Its numbers are decreasing in the Great Lakes areas and in parts of New England.

Conservation:

-A neo-tropical migrant that is vulnerable to habitat loss and a rare host to cowbird parasitism.

Shoreline Restoration Issues:

-To create an environment friendly to the Black-throated Green Warbler I would suggest planting an area of your property densely with trees and shrubs. Furthermore, I would concentrate on having about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the buffer zone planted in the aforementioned trees and shrubs, and have the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ planted in a Butterfly Garden with many beautiful wildflowers. Some emergent and submersed aquatic vegetation is also encouraged. This will give this little bird cover, nesting areas, and attract the food that it needs to eat. The Black-throated Green Warbler is a very beautiful and interesting bird that most anyone would appreciate, due to its beauty and its wonderful song.