

Canada Warbler

Wilsonia canadensis

General Information:

-This bird sings frequently from the dense forest undergrowth it favors, or from an exposed perch just above it, with a jumbled warbling song that defies a fitting mnemonic. It actively forages for insects by flushing them from the foliage and chasing them. Males have been observed in “anticipatory feeding”, offering insects to the un-hatched eggs in the well-concealed nest on the ground. Canada Warblers are more often heard than seen on the breeding grounds.

Song:

-*Chip* followed by explosive staccato series of short notes ending with 3-note phrase, the last note rising in pitch.

Behavior:

-Skulks in the undergrowth; often concealed when perched. Frequently found in low, dense, luxuriant undergrowth under mixed hardwoods. Gleans insects from foliage, stems, and ground; sometimes catches flies.



Breeding:

-Monogamous and solitary.

Nesting:

-Incubation of 12 days by female. The altricial young fledge at 10-12 days. Probably only has 1 brood per year.

Population:

-Common to fairly common in breeding range and in migration in the East; casual to accidental elsewhere. Declining.

Conservation:

-A neo-tropical migrant and a host to Brown-headed Cowbirds. Vulnerable to disturbance of mature forest on wintering grounds. Habitat loss and forest fragmentation negatively affecting its populations.

Shoreline Restoration Issues:

-If you want to create an environment friendly to the Canada Warbler on your shoreland property you are going to have to concentrate the majority of the restoration in ground cover. Tall to medium sized shrubs surrounded by ferns would be a good start. On the outside edge of the ferns, I would recommend starting with tall wildflowers and gradually tapering off to smaller wildflowers. Plantings on the shoreline should be thick. The planting of emergent and submersed aquatic vegetation is also encouraged.