

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Dendroica pensylvanica

General Information:

-The only North American warbler with pure white under-parts in all seasons, this bird most often lives in second-growth deciduous woodlands. An active feeder, it often cocks its tail high above its back, exposing the white bottom of its tail. Birds in fall plumage have a white eye ring on a gray face, and green crown, and creamy yellow wing bars; males have chestnut on the sides and black streakin on a green back.

Song:

-The song is a high-pitched *please-please-pleased-to-meetcha*.

Behavior:

-Solitary or in pairs; tame and active. Singing male is conspicuous on territory. Eats insects, caterpillars, seeds, and berries. Picks food off leaves of trees and forages on ground. Catches insects in flight.



Breeding:

-Monogamous and solitary.

Nesting:

-Incubation 11-13 days by the female. The 1-2 broods per year of altricial young stay in the nest for 10-12 more days, are brooded by the female, and fed by both sexes.

Population:

-Fairly common to common in brushy thickets, second-growth deciduous woodlands, brushy old fields, and young clear-cuts.

Conservation:

-A neo-tropical migrant that is vulnerable to habitat loss through natural succession processes.

Shoreline Restoration Issues:

-If you want to create an environment friendly to the Chestnut-sided Warbler on your shoreland property you have to have the second growth environment that they need. The easiest way to get this environment is to plant areas of your land thickly with shrubs. Some good shrubs to consider are American and Beaked Hazelnut, Mountain-Holly, Elderberry, Nannyberry, June-berry, Staghorn Sumac, and Wild Plum. I believe that most any native deciduous tree will be sufficient to attract this bird, especially Mountain Ash, Black Cherry, Swamp White Oak, Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Box Elder, and Silver Maple, however it is better to concentrate on shrubs.