

# Yellow Warbler

*Dendroica petechia*

## General Information:

-This plump-bodied bird has a wider range than any other North American warbler, nesting from Canada to Mexico and from the Pacific to the Atlantic Coasts. A habitat generalist, like many other warblers, it feeds harmful leaf-eating caterpillars to its nestlings. When a cowbird invades and lays eggs in this warbler's nest, the female builds a roof over all of the eggs, both hers and the brood parasite's, and often lays a new set on the "new" nest floor. As many as six stories have been found in a single nest, each floor containing entombed cowbird eggs. The bright red streaking on the male's under-parts distinguishes him from the female and all other North American warblers.

## Song:

-Sings a swift warbling *sweet-sweet, I'm -so-sweet.*

## Behavior:

-Solitary or in pairs, this little bird is tame, active, and conspicuous. It forages in shrubs, bushes, and trees. It gleans food from branches and foliage; sometimes hawks insects. It eats mostly insect, larvae, and some fruit.



## Breeding:

-Monogamous and a solitary nester.

## Nesting:

-Incubation of 11-12 days by the female. The 1-2 broods per year are brooded by the female, fed by both sexes, and stay in the nest for 9-12 days after hatching.

## Population:

-Common and widespread in riparian thickets, second-growth woodlands, gardens, orchards, and wetlands.

## Conservation:

-A neo-tropical migrant that is a common host to cowbird parasitism and vulnerable to habitat loss, especially in riparian areas, and to herbicide spraying of willow thickets for grazing.

## Shoreline Restoration Issues:

- If you would like to create an environment friendly to the Yellow Warbler I think that the best plan of attack would be to plant a series of deciduous trees with a few coniferous trees interspersed. The trees that I recommend are the Swamp White Oak, Red Oak, Silver Maple, Sugar Maple, Weeping Willow, River Birch, Paper Birch, Yellow Birch, Eastern White Pine, and Balsam Fir. I would concentrate on berry producing shrubs and ferns. I would also encourage the planting of emergent aquatic vegetation and Sandbar Willows and Sweet Flag along the shore.