



PHOTO CREDIT - ISTVAN OROSI

Canada Warbler

Scientific Name: *Wilsonia canadensis*
Taxonomy: Bird
Range: Yukon, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia
Last COSEWIC Assessment: April 2008, Threatened Status
SARA Status: Threatened
Government of Alberta Status: Sensitive
 Protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act

Fact Sheet

Information adapted from:

Species at Risk Public Registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species/speciesDetails_e.cfm?sid=1008)

Appearance

The Canada Warbler is a small, brightly coloured songbird 12 to 15 cm in length. The males, which have a bluish-grey tail and upper parts contrasting with a yellow throat and breast, are typically more brightly coloured than the females and juveniles.

In both sexes, black stripes form a collar on the breast, although this collar is less defined in the females. The bill is thin and there are yellow "spectacles" round the eyes.

In the males, the head is bluish with a black forehead and cheeks, which join with a band of well-defined black stripes that run across the breast.

The forehead and cheeks of the female are bluish-grey rather than black.

Boreal Distribution

The Canada Warbler breeds in the summer, in all provinces and territories except Nunavut and Newfoundland and Labrador. Eighty-five percent of the global breeding population of the Canada Warbler is in Canada.

Threats

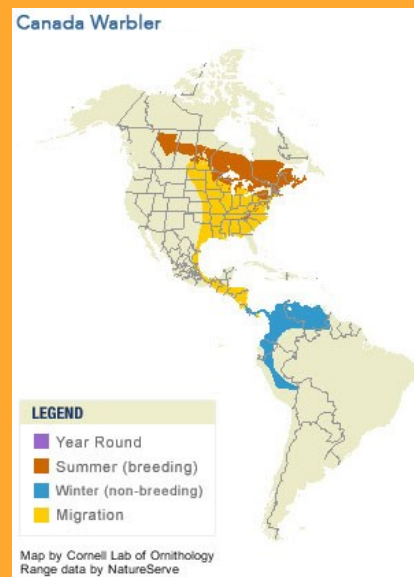
The factors responsible for the decline of the Canada Warbler have not been identified. However, habitat loss and degradation in the wintering range of this migratory bird are thought to be the most likely factors.

The forests of the northern Andes (South America), the main wintering grounds of the Canada Warbler, are among the most threatened in the world. Approximately 90% of these forests have now been cleared for agriculture, fuel wood, or the cultivation of illegal drugs. Non-selective herbicides have been sprayed to eliminate these drug crops.

In western Canada, road development in the boreal forest may have played a major role.

Finally, the decrease in spruce budworm outbreaks in eastern forests since 1970 may also have contributed to the decline of the species.

Habitat



The Canada Warbler is found in a variety of forest types, but it is most abundant in wet, mixed deciduous-coniferous forest with a well-developed shrub layer. It can be found in riparian areas and new forests resulting from industrial or natural disturbance that contain a high density of shrubs.

In winter, this migratory bird uses primarily mature cloud rainforests at an elevation of 1000 to 2500 m, as well as old-growth forests, forest edges, coffee plantations, agricultural field edges and semi-open areas.