

Spring Warbler ID

Most warblers move through our area between April 20 and May 20. “Peak” varies by species with most arriving before / during leaf-out in central Canada. Length of Day plays a large part in long-distance, neo-tropical migration north, while appropriate weather conditions can draw short-distance migrants north from the mid-Atlantic states earlier than expected. Likewise, prolonged cold, wet weather and north winds can keep migrants further south later than expected.

25 Common Warblers:

- 1. Pine Warbler.** Wing-bars. Males are bright yellow in throat and belly with yellow spectacles. White wing bars. Females and nonbreeding birds are olive-yellow overall with white wing bars, yellow throat, belly and flanks. White vent.
- 2. Palm Warbler.** Plain. Mottled yellow-brown overall with pale yellow to yellow supercilium, yellow vent and white outer tail feathers. Breeding has bright yellow throat and belly with variable deep chestnut crown. Bobs tail, often forages on ground.
- 3. Yellow-rumped Warbler.** Wing-bars. Adult males have bold black face with broken, white eye ring. Females and nonbreeding birds are grey-brown overall and white below with variably streaked back, belly and flanks. Grey mask, white throat. Yellow patches under upper part of wings and on rump. Broken white eye-ring. Often fly-catches. Vocal, with *chek* contact and flight call.
- 4. Louisiana Waterthrush, 5. Northern Waterthrush.** Plain. Brown above and heavily streaked below. Supercilium thin, pale, tapered in NOWA vs broad, bright, and enlarged toward end in LOWA. Leg color on LOWA are lighter than NOWA. Often walks on ground and bobs tail.
- 6. Black-and-White Warbler.** Wing-bars. Unmistakable black and white, forages like nuthatch.
- 7. Black-throated Green Warbler.** Wing-bars. Green cap and back with yellow face, black throat blends to streaking over white belly and flanks. White wing-bars.
- 8. Common Yellowthroat.** Plain. Male is olive-grey overall with bold black mask above yellow neck. Variable white “visor” above mask. Female and younger birds are olive-grey overall with prominent yellow throat and faint white eye-ring.
- 9. Northern Parula.** Wing-bars. Blue-green above with yellow throat and white flanks. Broken white eye-ring. White wing-bars. Short, sharp beak. Males have variable black and chestnut band below throat.
- 10. Yellow Warbler.** Plain. Male is yellow overall with variable red streaking in belly. Plain yellow face. Female and nonbreeding is plain, olive-yellow with faint yellow eye-ring.
- 11. Ovenbird.** Plain. Brown-olive back and wings with black streaks on white breast, sides. White eye-ring, russet cap bordered with black lines. Often walks on ground.
- 12. Nashville Warbler.** Plain. Olive-green back, yellow breast and throat, white vent, grey “hood” with white eye-ring. Males have variable red in cap.

- 13. Black-throated Blue Warbler.** Plain. Male is dark, navy blue on cap, back and wings with black face and flanks over white belly and vent. White wing spot. Female is pale blue-grey overall with lighter belly and vent, white wing spot and partial white eye-ring.
- 14. Chestnut-sided Warbler.** Wing-bars. Male has black and white face with yellow-green cap and broad, chestnut flanks. Female has less extensive chestnut sides. Both have bright green cap and back with white wing-bars, white eye-ring and plain grey-white belly with variable chestnut on flanks.
- 15. Prairie Warbler.** Plain. Grey-green above and lemon-yellow below. Bold black streaking on side of breast and flanks. Dark spot below eye. Partial white eye-ring.
- 16. American Redstart.** Plain. Male distinctive black and orange. Females and younger males are olive-green above with yellow-orange patches on flanks, wings and tail.
- 17. Blackburnian Warbler.** Wing-bars. Prominent white wing-bars, orange to yellow throat and supercilium with dark eye-line. Variable streaking over white belly, flanks and vent.
- 18. Cape May Warbler.** Wing-bars. The “Moth Eating Tiger” is grey-green overall with delicate, black streaking on back, breast and flanks. Chestnut cheek over yellow face. Single white wing bar. Female / Nonbreeding: yellow-grey with delicate streaking on breast and flanks. Variable white wing-bar. Grey cheek, yellow “ear” with faint, black eye-line. Yellow Rump.
- 19. Magnolia Warbler.** Wing-bars. Males: Grey cap, black cheek, white eyebrow. White lower eye arc. Bold black “necklace” over yellow belly. Female / Nonbreeding: Grey hood and back, white wing-bars, broken white eye-ring, variable black streaking on yellow breast and flanks. White vent with jet-black undertail tip appears “dipped in ink”
- 20. Wilson’s Warbler.** Plain. Olive back and wings, yellow face and belly. Bold black cap, which is variable in female and nonbreeding birds. Holds wings out as it forages actively. Prefers dense cover.
- 21. Tennessee Warbler.** Plain. Grey head and neck, pale green-white belly, darker green wings with white vent, and short, sharp bill. Faint black eye-line.
- 22. Blackpoll Warbler.** Wing-bars. Adult male: black crown, black handlebar mustache, streaked over white belly and flanks. White Wing bars. Female and Nonbreeding: overall grey-green and finely streaked, with white wing bars, black eye-line and **yellow-orange** on the legs, feet, or toe pads. Individual birds also have yellow at the base of their lower mandible.
- 23. Canada Warbler.** Plain. Uniform grey cheeks, back and tail. Black forehead and “necklace” with yellow throat, belly, and flanks. White vent. White eye-ring. Female / immature variable black to grey “necklace”
- 24. Mourning Warbler.** Large, long-billed. Dark grey head, with black “bib,” olive-green wings with yellow-green breast, flanks and vent. Undertail coverts extend further down tail than other warblers.
- 25. Bay-breasted Warbler.** Wing-bars. Grey overall with plain belly, streaked back and double white wing-bars, faint black eye-line (immatures/nonbreeding) and variable brown along flanks. Males have black face and dark brown crown, chin, and flanks.

Individual birds have a pink lower mandible base and **all-blackish or grayish** legs and feet with no hint of yellow.

Rarities:

Rarities, including Golden-winged Warbler and Cerulean Warbler breed in Midwest / Appalachia. Hooded, Worm-eating: Mid-Atlantic, Prothonotary: Mid-Atlantic and Ohio River Valley, Blue-winged: Midwest and upper Mid-Atlantic, Orange-crowned: Western and Boreal. Rarities possible between late April-May and mid-June due to overshoot especially closer to the coast and on offshore islands. Orange-crowned migrates through but is more common in Fall than Spring.