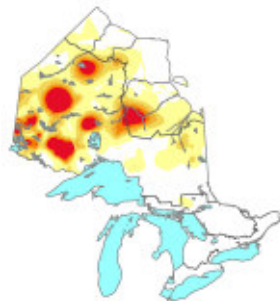
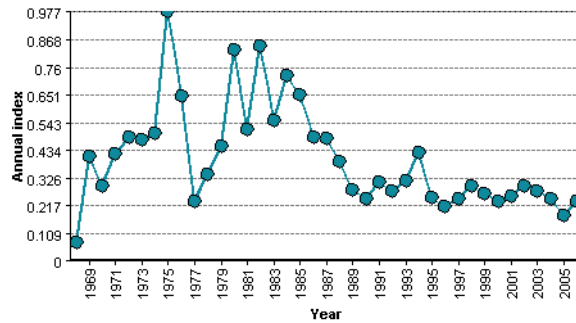


Connecticut Warbler Factsheet

Boreal Bird Toolkit



Relative Abundance



Breeding Bird Survey Index Trend 1968-2006 (Canada)

Description and biology: The Connecticut Warbler is a large warbler (13-15cm) with uniform olive-green upperparts, yellowish underparts, a bluish-grey hood that extends onto the upper breast, and a complete white eye-ring. This uncommon warbler is shy and elusive, typically skulking on or low to the ground in dense vegetation.

Habitat requirements: In Ontario, the Connecticut Warbler occurs in semi-open spruce and tamarack wetlands areas with a well developed understorey. It will also nest in open aspen woodlands or young jack pine stands. It is restricted, in Ontario, to the boreal forest of the Canadian Shield.

Natural history: The Connecticut Warbler was named after the state of Connecticut, the site where it was first collected, but this species is neither a breeder nor regular migrant there.

Conservation status: Of the North American and world population, it is estimated that more than 90% breed in Canada's boreal forest. Breeding Bird Surveys reveal that the Connecticut Warbler declined by 1.7% per year between 1968 and 2006 across Canada, with 7.0% annual declines in Ontario, although neither figure is statistically significant. Regional results from the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (2001-2005) show the species increased by 50% over twenty years in the Northern Shield and decreased by a non-significant 1% in the adjacent Southern Shield region. Despite variable results, concern remains about potentially declining populations, and data interpretations should be viewed with caution since low numbers make trend observations unreliable. Partners in Flight designate the Connecticut Warbler as a watch list species of regional concern that would benefit from both continental and regional stewardship.

Environmental threats: There is little data or literature on environmental threats for the Connecticut Warbler on the breeding or wintering grounds, although habitat fragmentation disturbances, including impact of electric power lines, are considered potentially disruptive. During migration, collisions with tall human-made structures are known to cause mortality.

Conservation opportunities: Since relatively little is known about the Connecticut Warbler, further research is required to better determine the species' conservation needs and impacts of commercial activities. Protection of moist and/or open woodlands with the requisite dense understorey will benefit this species. Ontario has a good opportunity to protect suitable habitat for this species in multiple nodes in northwestern Ontario, both within areas allocated for commercial forestry and farther north.

Boreal Bird Toolkit:

Toolkit and factsheet: © Wildlife Conservation Society Canada and G.G. Beck Ecological Consulting 2008

Breeding Bird Survey: courtesy Canadian Wildlife Service, volunteers & coordinators: www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/mgbc/trends

Abundance map and point count data: courtesy *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005*; www.birdsontario.org

Photo: not available. See toolkit for literature cited.