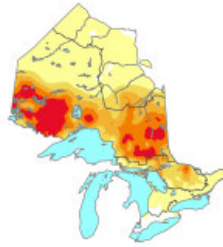


Nashville Warbler Factsheet

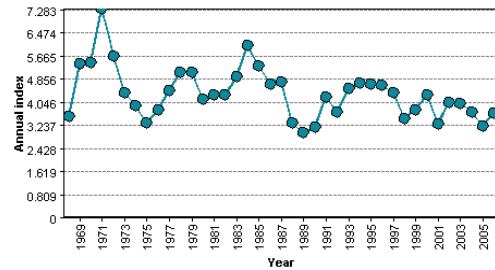
Boreal Bird Toolkit



Nashville Warbler



Relative Abundance



Breeding Bird Survey Index Trend 1968-2006 (Canada)

Description and biology: The Nashville Warbler is a medium-sized warbler (12 cm) with a blue-grey head, yellow throat, inconspicuous reddish crown, white eye-ring, greenish upperparts, and bright yellow underparts. This warbler forages at various heights, capturing insect prey at the ends of branches and on the undersides of leaves.

Habitat requirements: This warbler inhabits a wide variety of forest habitats containing shrubby undergrowth, such as second growth deciduous or mixed forests, burned areas, and sparsely treed bogs. The nest is hidden beneath shrubs, placed on the ground among grasses, leaves, or mosses.

Natural history: The Nashville Warbler is named after the city where it was first described, although it does not regularly breed near there. Porcupine quills are sometimes used as nest material. According to new data from the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005* the Nashville Warbler is Ontario's most abundant bird species. The provincial population is estimated at 15 million, with 12 million birds occurring in the boreal forest of the Northern Shield region.

Conservation status: Of the North American and world population, over 60% breed in Canada's boreal forest. Breeding Bird Surveys show little overall change in population from 1968 to 2006, with nonsignificant increases of 0.6% per year in Ontario and decreases of 0.7% per year across Canada. Results from the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (2001-2005) show the species has increased significantly by 45% over twenty years in the Northern Shield region and by a nonsignificant 2% in the adjacent Southern Shield. Partners in Flight suggest this species would benefit from both continental and regional stewardship.

Environmental threats: In contrast to some other boreal warblers, forestry practices likely benefit this species by creating the second-growth habitat the species prefers. (The areas with highest relative abundance for breeding populations are within the commercial forest zone.) The Nashville Warbler breeds in a variety of habitat types, making it less susceptible to various environmental stressors. Loss of habitat on its wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America could affect the species negatively.

Conservation opportunities: The large provincial population of this species highlights Ontario's jurisdictional responsibility for stewardship. Riparian habitat is among this species preferred habitat types, illustrating the importance of protecting forested areas near rivers and streams. Ontario and Canada have an opportunity to work internationally to protect bird habitats across the Americas, benefiting this and other species. The large population of this species increases the power of some statistical tests, making it a candidate for long-term population trend analyses and related environmental factors.

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: © Tim Stewart. See toolkit for literature cited.