

# Black-throated Green Warbler Factsheet

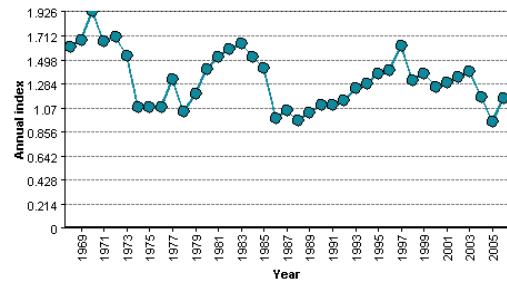
## Boreal Bird Toolkit



Black-throated Green Warbler



Relative Abundance



Breeding Bird Survey Index Trend 1968-2006 (Canada)

**Description and biology:** The Black-throated Green Warbler is a small warbler (11-12cm) which receives its name from its olive-green upperparts and black chin, throat, and upper breast. It has bright yellow facial markings, grey wings with white wing bars, and a white belly with black streaks. The species is primarily a foliage gleaner, meaning it picks insects from the surface of leaves and branches.

**Habitat requirements:** This warbler inhabits interior old-growth coniferous and mixed woods, as well as edges and second growth areas to a lesser extent. The important component of its habitat is not species composition, but rather structure. Preferred habitat is multi-dimensional with many vegetation layers present for foraging – a structure more typical of older forests.

**Natural history:** The Black-throated Green Warbler is a persistent singer. One male songster of the species was observed to sing 466 times in one hour.

**Conservation status:** Of the North American and world population, 50% breed in Canada's boreal forest. Breeding Bird Surveys reveal that the Black-throated Green Warbler declined by 0.6% between 1968 and 2006 across Canada, and increased by 2% per year in Ontario, although neither trend was statistically significant. Results from the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (2001-2005) show the species has increased significantly by 23% over twenty years in the Northern Shield region and by 18% in the Southern Shield. Partners in Flight suggest this species would benefit from both continental and regional stewardship.

**Environmental threats:** Fragmentation and thinning of forests is detrimental to this species due to its forest interior preferences. Pesticides associated with the control of spruce budworm have been shown to decrease numbers of this species. In the United States, major declines occurred where infestations of introduced woolly adelgids, an aphid-like insect, eliminated hemlock from previously-suitable habitat.

**Conservation opportunities:** While the species is relatively common and widespread in Ontario, it is particularly abundant in White Pine and Eastern Hemlock forests east of Lake Superior and Georgian Bay. These areas coincide fairly closely with regions of relatively high precipitation, and in some cases extensive protected areas. Maintaining interior habitat and older-growth forest areas, and minimizing forest fragmentation, will benefit the species. Woodland habitat protection on the species' wintering grounds in Central and South America is also important.

### 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](http://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](http://www.birdsontario.org)

Photo: © John Kormendy. See toolkit for literature cited.