

# Canada Warbler

*Wilsonia canadensis*



Status: **Special Concern**

## Threats:

- ◆ Habitat degradation (removal of shrub layer in forests, tropical deforestation)
- ◆ Loss of lowland forests in their breeding range
- ◆ Brood parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds



Photo: Eleanor Kee Wellman

## Description:

- ◆ Small, brightly coloured songbird 12-14 cm long
- ◆ Males have a yellow throat, chest, and belly; necklace of dark streaks across chest
- ◆ Underside of tail is white
- ◆ Prominent white eye ring
- ◆ Females and juveniles are similar but duller in colour; are grey where males are black
- ◆ Song sounds like 'chikery-chikery-choo-choo'
- ◆ Call is a sharp "chip"

## Biology:

- ◆ Nests on or near the ground, usually in a hummock, stump, mossy log, or at the base of a shrub
- ◆ Clutch size of 2-6 eggs
- ◆ Feeds mainly on flying insects, beetles, hairless caterpillars and spiders
- ◆ Scrapes the ground to find insects to feed on; may also hover while hunting

## Habitat:

- ◆ Usually found in damp mossy forests with a dense understory of shrubs, small trees and ferns
- ◆ May also be found in shrubby thickets along watercourses
- ◆ Over winters in South America; arrives in Canada in early June and leaves early September
- ◆ 85% of the global breeding population are found in Canada

Species at Risk  
STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

# Canada Warbler

*Wilsonia canadensis*

## STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

Status: **Special Concern**

### Canada Warbler on Your Property? *Here's What You Can Do:*

- ◆ **Don't disturb nests, young or adults.** Be respectful and observe from a distance.
- ◆ **Appreciate flying insects.** Flying insects like moths and beetles are an important component of the ecosystem, becoming food for a wide variety of birds and other animals.
- ◆ **Protect any forests and natural vegetation on your property.**
- ◆ **Support sustainable forestry practices when you purchase wood products.** Look for the FSC logo.
- ◆ **Coffee drinkers** - buy shade grown, organic coffee to help protect over wintering habitat for many of our songbirds.
- ◆ **See or hear a Canada Warbler close by?** Submit your sighting to the Natural Heritage Information Centre at [nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species\\_report.cfm](http://nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species_report.cfm). Photographs with specific locations or mapping coordinates are always helpful.
- ◆ **Contact the Ministry of Natural Resources.** If you find a Canada Warbler or a nest on your property, you may be eligible for stewardship programs that support the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats. Contact the MNR for more information.
- ◆ **Learn More.** Check out the Species at Risk section on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca).



Photo: Jeff Nadler



Photo: Emmett Hume

### Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*

Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007* came into force on June 30, 2008, making Ontario a North American leader in the protection of species at risk and their habitats.

Compared to Ontario's previous Act, written in 1971, the new ESA 2007 provides:

- ◆ Science-based assessment of species' status
- ◆ Automatic protection of a species and its habitat once it's listed as endangered or threatened
- ◆ Broader protection for species at risk and their habitats
- ◆ Greater support for volunteer stewardship efforts of private landowners, resource users, and conservation organizations
- ◆ A commitment to recovery of species through recovery planning
- ◆ Greater accountability, including government reporting requirements

Ontario is home to more than 30,000 species, most of which have stable populations.

However, more than 180 species in Ontario, 34 of which are found in Parry Sound-Muskoka, are currently considered "at risk" because of threats like:

- ◆ Habitat loss
- ◆ Global changes in insect populations
- ◆ Pollution
- ◆ Invasive species
- ◆ Climate change
- ◆ Over-harvesting
- ◆ Road mortality



Learn more about Species at Risk on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca).