

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER *GUIDANCE FOR CONSERVATION*

(*Dendroica virens*)

The Black-throated Green Warbler is found throughout higher elevation forests of the Hudson River Valley, where it is a common breeder. It is often seen during spring and fall migration.

Conservation Status

Breeding Bird Survey data indicate slightly decreasing populations statewide in the past four decades. However, NYS Breeding Bird Atlas data show an increase in distribution in the Hudson River Valley during the past two decades.



J. Nadler

Identification

This wood-warbler is about the size of an American Goldfinch. The adult male has a bright yellow face, an olive back, crown and rump, black wings with two prominent white wing bars, and white underparts with black streaking on the side and an black upper breast. The female is similar to the male, but is somewhat less bright with a white rather than a black throat. The song is a fast, buzzy “zee, zee, zee zoo zee.”

Habitat

This bird is found in mature coniferous and mixed forest, especially hardwood-hemlock stands, as well as deciduous woodlands with beech, maple or birch. Kendeigh (1945) states that the territory size ranges from 0.6 to 2.5 acres, with the average size being 1.6 acres.

Food

This insectivorous bird feeds on caterpillars, wasps, flies, beetles and other arthropods. It forages by locating prey on the upper surfaces of leaves and then hovering beneath the undersides of leaves or by flying up and catching insects in mid-air.

Nesting

The nest is made of grass, weeds, twigs, bark and lichens, held together by spider silk and is often placed in conifers on horizontal branches close to the trunk.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER *GUIDANCE FOR CONSERVATION*

(*Dendroica virens*)

Threats

- Forest destruction or fragmentation from suburban and commercial development.
- Habitat loss when conifers die from wooly adelgid infestations.
- Elimination of prey base through use of insecticides.

Management Recommendations

- Maintain relatively mature stands of coniferous and mixed forests.

This species summary is adapted from Morse and Poole 2005.

For more information, see the following references:

Askins, R. A., and M. J. Philbrick 1987. Effect of changes in regional forest abundance on the decline and recovery of a forest bird community. *Wilson Bulletin* 99:7-21.
<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Wilson/v099n01/p0007-p0021.pdf>

Kendeigh, S. C. 1945. Community selection by birds on the Helderberg Plateau of New York. *Auk* 62: 418-436. <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Auk/v062n03/p0418-p0436.pdf>.

Meiklejohn, B. A., and J. W. Hughes. 1999. Bird communities in riparian buffer strips of industrial forests. *American Midland Naturalist* 141:172–184 [Available full-text online through BioOne].

Morse, Douglass H. and Alan F. Poole. 2005. Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*), *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online:
<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/055>

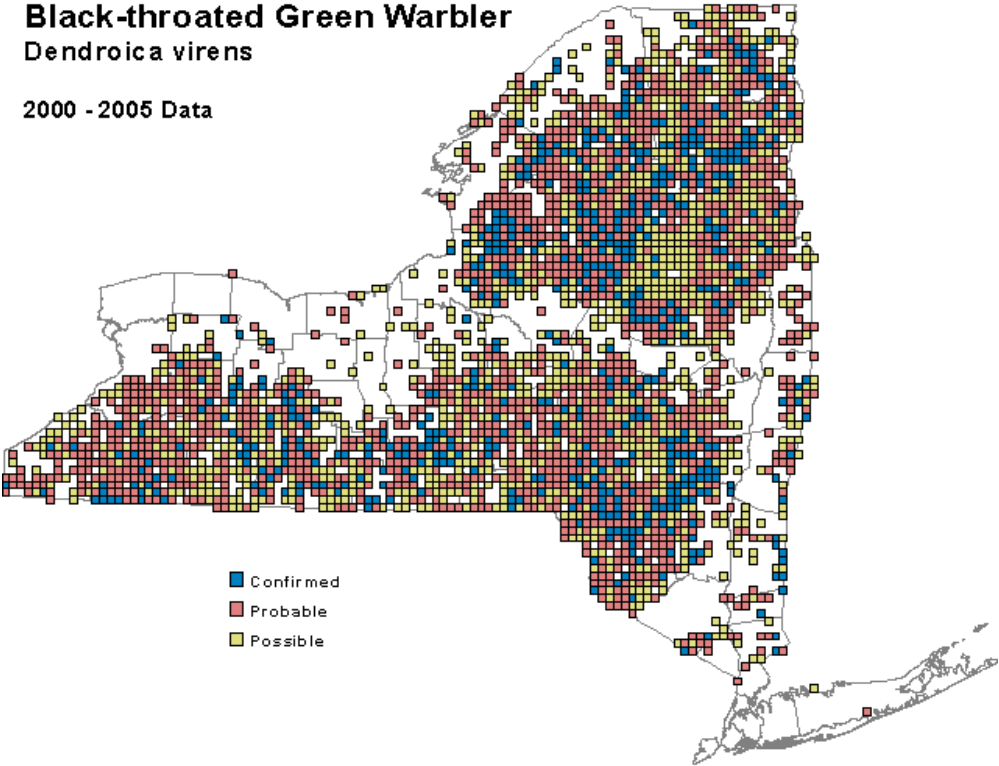
NatureServe. 2008. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.0. NatureServe, Arlington, VA. <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.

Robbins, C. S., D. K. Dawson, and B. A. Dowell. 1989. Habitat Area Requirements of Breeding Birds of the Middle Atlantic States. *Wildlife Monographs* no. 103:3-34. [Available full text online through JSTOR]

NYS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS COMPARATIVE DATA

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*

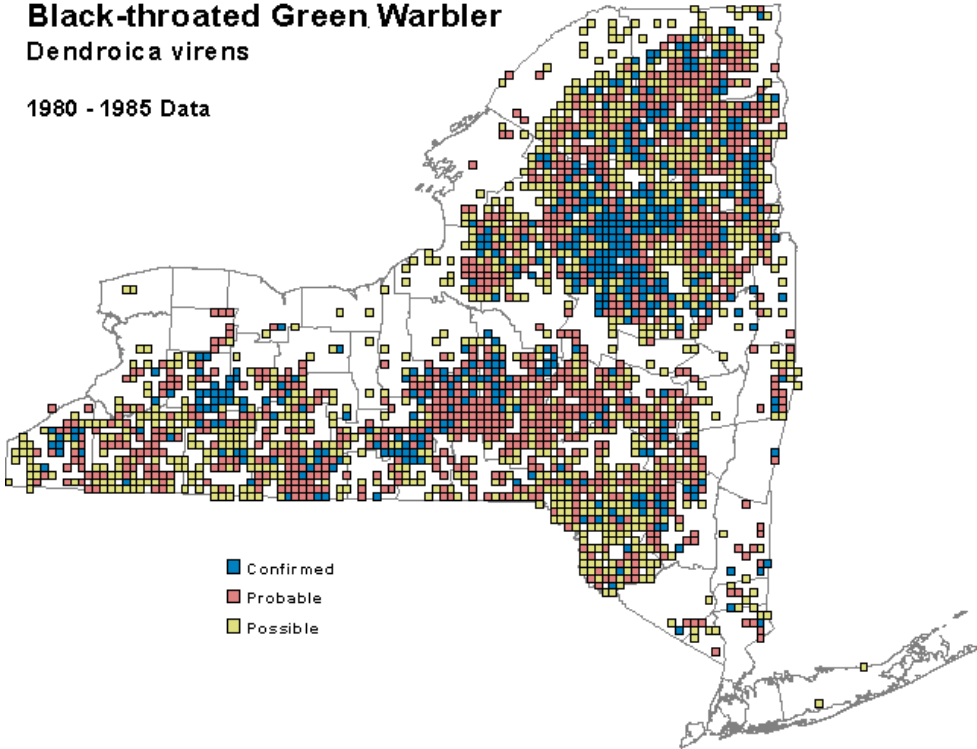
2000 - 2005 Data



- Confirmed
- Probable
- Possible

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*

1980 - 1985 Data



- Confirmed
- Probable
- Possible