

The Blue-winged Warbler is a relatively common breeder in shrubby fields in the Hudson River Valley.

Conservation Status

The Blue-winged Warbler is regarded as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in New York. Its decline throughout its range has led to its "Yellow" designation on the Audubon WatchList. However, Breeding Bird Survey data indicate a relatively stable population in the state in the past four decades. NYS Breeding Bird Atlas data show a modest decline in occupied blocks in the Hudson River Valley between the two atlas periods. Partners in Flight regard it as a Species of Continental Concern in Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) 13, 14, 28, and 30 and of Regional Concern in BCRs 28 and 30.



Identification

This small wood-warbler is about the same size as a chickadee. The male has a bright yellow face and underparts, with a greenish back, slate-blue wings with bright white wing bars, and a prominent black eye line. The female is similar to the male, but has paler wing bars and eye line. The most-often-heard song is a single buzzy note followed by a single lower buzz ("bee-buzz").

Habitat

This species is found in a wide variety of early successional habitats similar to those preferred by the Golden-winged Warbler, including shrubby fields, overgrown pastures, forest edge, clear cuts, and utility rights-of-way. The common features of these habitats are patches of dense herbaceous growth and shrubs, scattered low trees, and wooded edges.

Nesting

The well-concealed cup nest is located on or near the ground and is placed at the base of goldenrod or berry bushes or in a clump of grass or sedge or in ferns. It is built by the female and is constructed of grass, dead leaves, and vine bark lined with finer plant material.

Food

This bird feeds on insects and their larvae, such as butterflies, moths, crickets, and grasshoppers, as well as spiders. It forages low in trees, shrubs, and vines by gleaning, probing, and hanging upside down.

Threats

- Loss of breeding habitat from suburban development.
- Clearing successional shrublands for pasture or agriculture.
- Reforestation of scrub habitat.
- Parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird.
- Predation by small mammals and feral cats.

Management Recommendations

- Create habitat by logging, burning, or intermittent farming.
- Allow shrubs to grow in power line rights-of-way by limiting mowing and herbicide treatments.
- Create habitat with dense vegetation of herbaceous and shrub layers up to 5' in height.

This management summary is adapted from Gill et al. 2001 and NatureServe 2009.

For additional information, see the following references.

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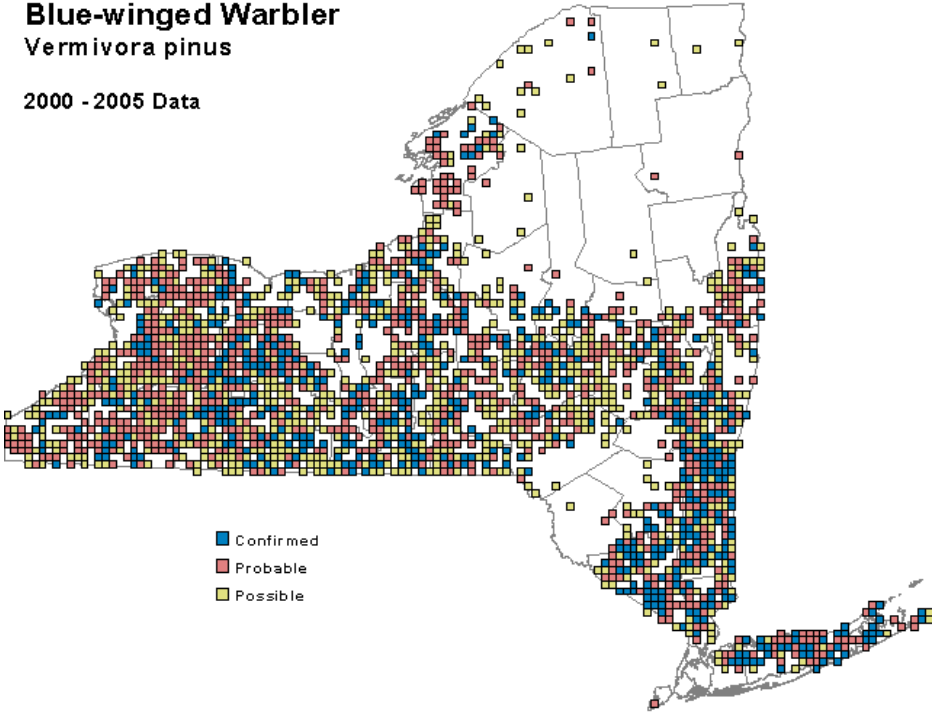
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NYS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS COMPARATIVE DATA

Blue-winged Warbler

Vermivora pinus

2000 - 2005 Data



Blue-winged Warbler

Vermivora pinus

1980 - 1985 Data

