

*The Hooded Warbler is an uncommon, but increasing breeder in forests in the Hudson River Valley.*

**Conservation Status**

Partners in Flight regard this species as a Species of Regional Concern in Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 30, and of Continental Stewardship and Regional Stewardship in BCR 28. Breeding Bird Survey data indicate increasing populations statewide in the past four decades. NYS Breeding Bird Atlas data show an increase in this species' distribution in the Hudson River Valley in the past two decades.

**Identification**

This medium-sized bird, about the size of a chickadee, has olive upperparts and bright yellow underparts and face. The male has a distinctive black hood, which the female lacks. The song is a clear, musical, whistled series of syllables, sounding like "weeta-weeta-weet-y-o," with an emphasis on the last syllable.

**Habitat**

This species is found in a variety of deciduous and mixed forests that have clearings with dense low shrubs and little ground cover, especially in the vicinity of streams and rivers. Tree species present include sugar maple, beech, oak, black cherry, and hemlock, with an understory of shrubs such as viburnums, spicebush, chokecherry, and vines such as raspberry and blackberry. It is also found in wooded swamps with dense understories. Robbins (1979) indicates that this area-sensitive species needs a minimum of 80-250 acres to sustain a viable breeding population.

**Nesting**

The nest is built by the female and is placed low in a sapling, shrub, or viney tangle, usually about two feet above the ground. The nest is a compact cup made of dead leaves, plant fibers, bark strips, and spider webs.

**Food**

The Hooded Warbler feeds by gleaning from vegetation of shrubs and saplings as well as flying up to catch prey on the wing. It eats a wide variety of insects such as caterpillars, moths, grasshoppers, locusts, moths, beetles, flies, and plant lice.

**Threats**

- Understory removal during forest management.
- Loss and fragmentation of mature forest to suburban development, recreational development, and agriculture.
- Increased likelihood of nest predation and parasitism due to fragmentation.
- Destruction of understory due to overbrowsing by white-tailed deer.

**Management Recommendations**

- Maintain large and unfragmented forest blocks of at least 250 acres.
- Promote understory growth and a dense shrub layer through natural disturbance or management through selective logging.
- Limit overbrowsing by deer .

**This species summary is adapted from Eaton 1988, Heckscher 1999, and Ogden and Stutchbury 1994.**

**For more information, see the following references:**

Eaton, S. W. 1998. Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*). Pages 493-495 in Bull's Birds of New York State (E. Levine, ed.). Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, NY.

Heckscher, C.M.; revisions by D.W. Mehlman. 1999. Species Management Abstract: Hooded Warbler. Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA. <http://conserveonline.org/library/howa.doc>

Ogden, L. J. and B. J. Stutchbury. 1994. Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*), 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/110>

Norris, D. R., B. J. M. Stutchbury, and T. E. Pitcher. 2000. [The spatial response of male Hooded Warblers to edges in isolated fragments](#). Condor 102:595-600.  
<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/files/issues/v102n03/p0595-p0600.pdf>

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

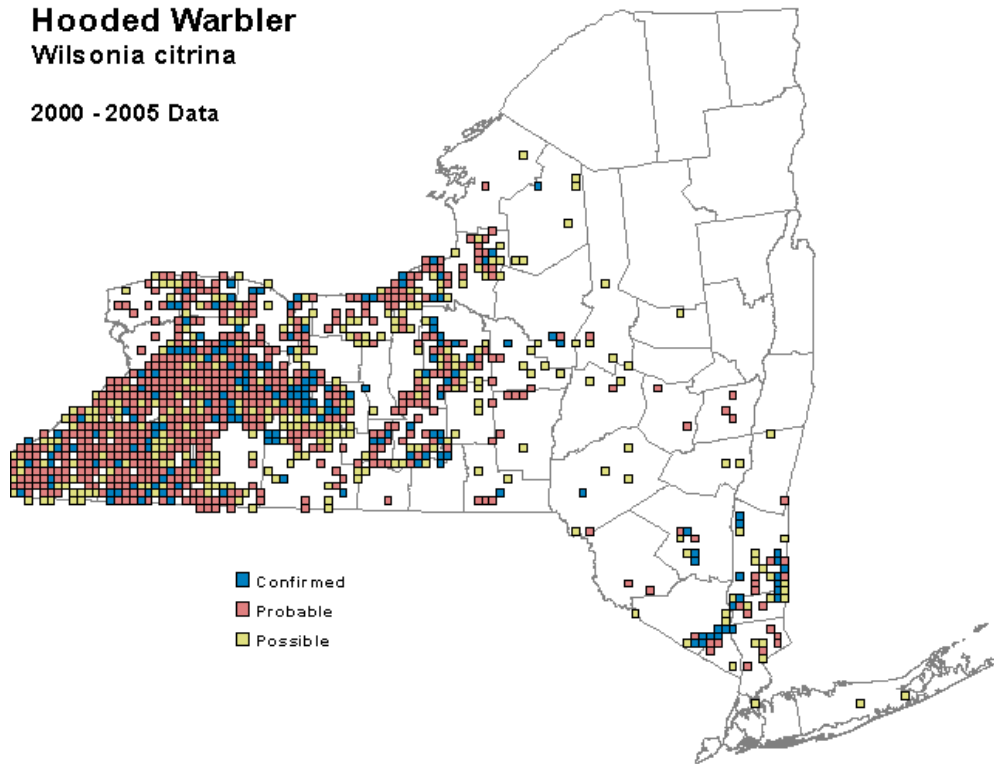
Robbins, C.S. 1979. Effect of forest fragmentation on bird populations. Pages 198-212 in. Management of North Central and Northeastern Forests for Nongame Birds (R. M. DeGraff and K. E. Evans, eds.). U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, General Technical Report NC-51.  
[http://www.ncrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/other/gtr\\_nc051/index.htm](http://www.ncrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/other/gtr_nc051/index.htm)

## NYS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS COMPARATIVE DATA

### Hooded Warbler

*Wilsonia citrina*

2000 - 2005 Data



### Hooded Warbler

*Wilsonia citrina*

1980 - 1985 Data

