

*The Yellow-throated Vireo is a relatively common breeder in woodlands in the Hudson River Valley.*

**Conservation Status**

Partners in Flight regards this species as a Species of Regional Concern, Continental Stewardship, and Regional Stewardship in Bird Conservation Region (BCR) 28, and of Regional Concern in BCR 14. Breeding Bird Survey show a slight decline in populations statewide since 1966. NYS Breeding Bird Atlas data indicate a consistent distribution in the Hudson River Valley in the past two decades.



**Identification**

This large vireo, about the size of a chickadee, has a bright yellow throat, breast, and eye “spectacles,” olive-green upperparts, a gray rump, dark wings with two white wing-bars, and a white belly and undertail. The sexes look alike. Immatures are similar to adults, but are paler on the throat and breast, and more brownish olive above. The song is a series of slow, repeated hoarse phrases, with pauses in between the elements, which sound like an upward “twe-o,” a downward “too-we,” followed by more upward and downward phrases.

**Habitat**

This bird breeds in a variety of edge habitats of both bottomland and upland open, mature, deciduous forests, such as edges of streams, rivers, swamps, treefall gaps, and roads, as well as open wooded habitats with tall deciduous trees, such as parks and towns. Although it is thought of as a forest-edge species, it requires large, contiguous blocks of forest habitat for successful breeding. Robbins et al. 1979 estimated that a minimum forest area of 250 acres is needed to sustain a viable breeding population. The mixture of mature forest and forest edge habitat, and how habitat preferences may vary regionally, remain unknown.

**Nesting**

The nest is usually in a living deciduous tree with a large, spreading crown, around 20-60 feet above the ground. It is a rounded cup, suspended by its rim from the fork of small branch near the main trunk and is made from strips of plant material, hornet’s nest paper, or leaves and hair that are bound together with spider silk. The exterior is covered with bits of gray lichen, birch bark, spider egg cases, and sometimes bits of paper.

**Food**

The Yellow-throated Vireo forages by gleaning along limbs or trunks of trees, as well as flying out or hovering to take insect prey from plant surfaces. It feeds mostly in the middle to upper part of deciduous trees. It eats a wide variety of arthropods, most frequently the larvae and adults of moths and butterflies, leafhoppers, beetles, flies and wasps. In the late summer and fall it will eat fruit.

**Threats**

- Fragmentation of forests due to suburban development.
- Parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds.
- Reduction in prey due to the spraying of trees with insecticides.

**Management Recommendations**

- Maintain forests of a minimum of 250 acres.

**This species summary is adapted from Rodewald and James 1996, Salzman 1998 and Smith 1988.**

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

James, R. D. 1976. Foraging behavior and habitat selection of three species of vireos in southern Ontario. *Wilson Bulletin* 88:62-75. <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Wilson/v088n01/p0062-p0075.pdf>

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Rodewald, Paul G. and Ross D. James. 1996. Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*), *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/247>

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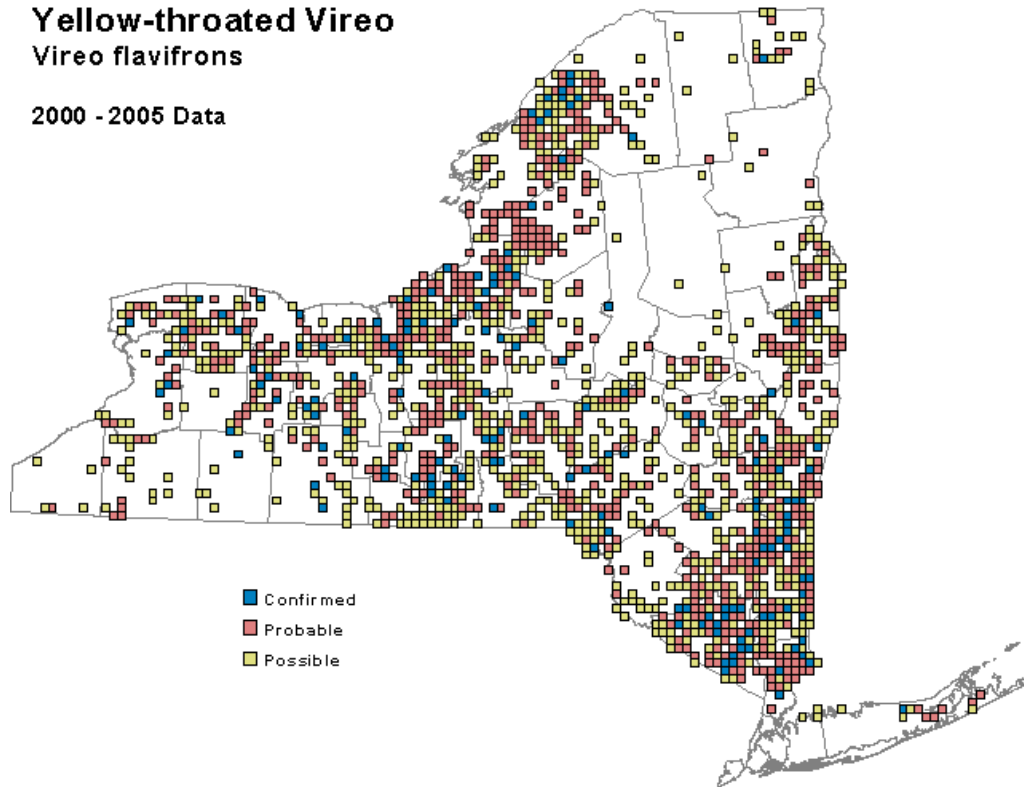
Smith, C. R.. 1988. Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*). Pages 346-347 in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (R. F. Andrie and J. R. Carroll, eds.). Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY.

## NYS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS COMPARATIVE DATA

### Yellow-throated Vireo

*Vireo flavifrons*

2000 - 2005 Data



### Yellow-throated Vireo

*Vireo flavifrons*

1980 - 1985 Data

