

# MAGNOLIA WARBLER (*Dendroica magnolia*) GUIDANCE FOR CONSERVATION

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*The Magnolia Warbler is found throughout higher-elevation coniferous forests in the Hudson River Valley where it is a common and increasing breeder.*

*It is common during spring and fall migration.*

## **Conservation Status**

Partners in Flight list the Magnolia Warbler as a Species of Continental Stewardship in Bird Conservation Region 14. Breeding Bird Survey data indicate increasing populations statewide in the past four decades. NYS Breeding Bird Atlas data show an expanded distribution in the Hudson River Valley during the past two decades.



## **Identification**

This wood-warbler is about the size of an American Goldfinch, with dark upperparts, a slate-colored crown, a black face patch, and a white eyebrow. There are large white patches on the dark wings and tail. The underparts are bright yellow with black streaks along the sides and breast that form a necklace. The song is a short, 4-syllable “weeta weeta weet-zu.”

## **Habitat**

This bird breeds in young, open coniferous and mixed forests, coniferous forested wetlands, woodland clearings with small conifers, and forest edges. It prefers dense stands of young, short balsam fir and white spruce. It generally occurs in forests with a 50-60% canopy cover. One source states that breeding territories average 1.8 acres in size.

## **Nesting**

The nest is placed in a dense conifer and is a loose cup made of grass and weeds on a twig lined with black rootlets. It is well concealed and built on a horizontal branch near the trunk, no more than 12 feet above the ground.

## **Food**

This bird forages most often by gleaning vegetation, especially the undersides of conifer needles and leaves, for insects, but it will also catch insects in the air. It eats beetles, caterpillars, flies, wasps, and other insects. It sometimes eats fruit.

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## Threats

- Destruction of forests by suburban and industrial development.
- Parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird.

## Management Recommendations

- In general, Magnolia Warblers prefer more mixed coniferous and deciduous forests with young trees or deciduous shrubs and openings.

**This species summary is adapted from Hall 1994 and Kendeigh 1945.**

## For more information, see the following references:

Curson, J., D. Quinn, and D. Beadle. 1994. Warblers of the Americas: an Identification Guide. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, MA.

Hall, George A. 1994. Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*), 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/136>

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>.

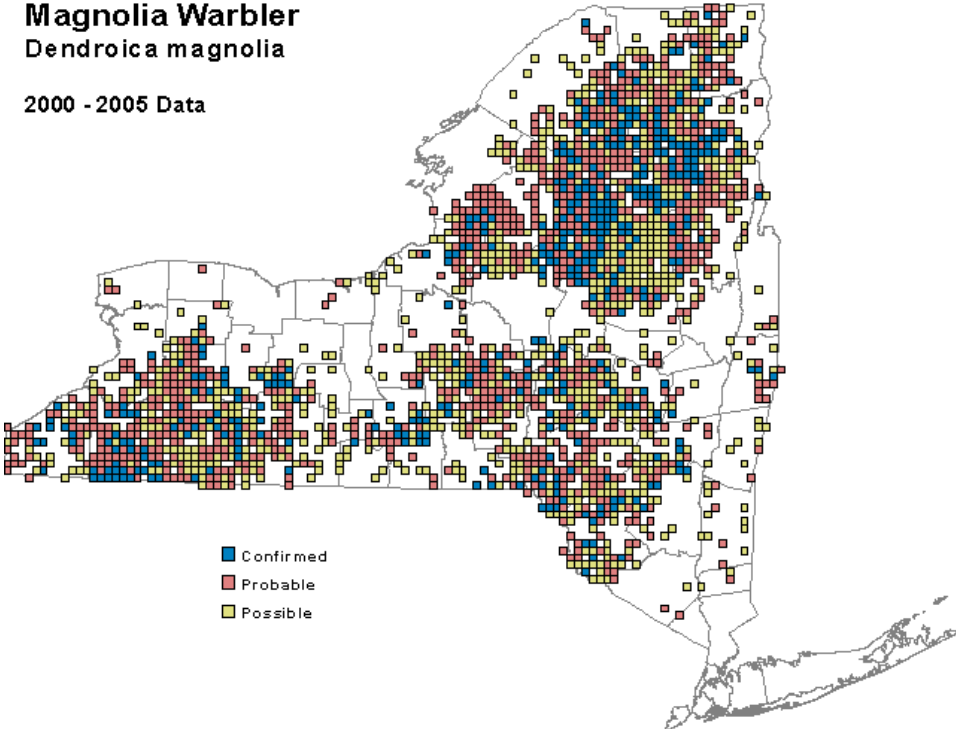
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Robbins, C. S., D. K. Dawson, and B. A. Dowell. 1989. Habitat Area Requirements of Breeding Birds of the Middle Atlantic States. Wildlife Monographs no. 103:3-34. [Available full text online through JSTOR]

**NYS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS COMPARATIVE DATA**

**Magnolia Warbler**  
*Dendroica magnolia*

2000 - 2005 Data



**Magnolia Warbler**  
*Dendroica magnolia*

1980 - 1985 Data

