



Wildlife Window: The Yellow-throated Warbler

Small in Size. Mighty in Song.

Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee.

[Woodlands Word – June 2023]

Warblers are a frequent and delightful visitor around Rivendell. Small in size, yet louder in voice and song. Warblers are so called because of the trills of their song. They are small birds with plumage ranging from drab colors like gray and brown to brighter ones like red, blue, and yellow. Some of them have duller voices, whereas others have loud, piercing calls.

While several species have been seen in our community, let's learn more about the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*).



Appearance

Yellow-throated Warblers are small, well-proportioned birds with sharp and pointed bills. They are gray and white with a splash of yellow on the throat and black streaks down the sides. The yellow throat is offset by a black triangle below the eye and a white eyebrow. From above they have a gray back and 2 white wingbars.

From below, look for the white belly and blunt, only slightly notched white tail. Females and first-year males look similar, but slightly paler.

(Photos: Bob Frank)

Habitat and Behavior

The well-named Yellow-throated Warbler shows off its bright yellow throat high in tree canopies in southeastern United States, including Florida.

You might have to crane your neck to see one or hope it lands in a nearby birdfeeder. It hops up branches, working its way high into the canopy probing for insects, in crevices and clumps of pine needles.

While many warblers migrate from South America to Canada each year, Yellow-throated Warblers are homebodies by comparison. It is one of the few warblers that can be found during the winter in the U.S.



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