

Nashville Warbler *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*



Folk Name: Birch Warbler

Status: Migrant

Abundance: Rare to Uncommon

Habitat: Deciduous forests and thickets

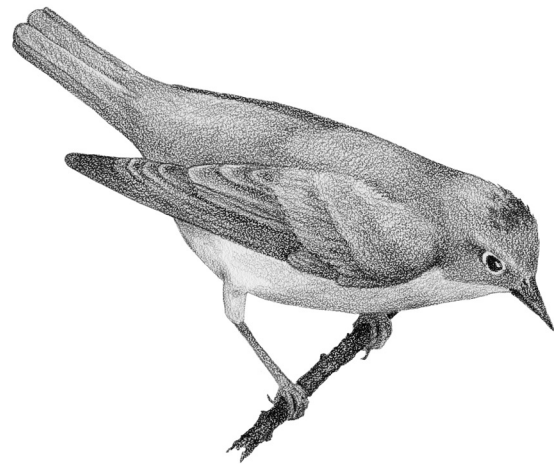
The Nashville Warbler is a very rare to rare transient in this region each spring. Spring migrants usually appear during a brief 3-week period from the last week of April through the second week of May. Our earliest spring report is 15 April, and our latest is 15 May. We have no reports of this bird present in this region from 16 May through 1 September.

The Nashville Warbler is rare to uncommon here in the fall, and we have several reports of birds present in December, January, and February. In the fall, this bird can be confused with the Orange-crowned Warbler (described above). Fall migrants usually move through during a 9-week period from about the first week of September through the first week of November. Our earliest arrival is 2 September.

Elmer Brown is credited with “the first positive record of a date” of the occurrence of Nashville Warbler for the state of North Carolina. He spied one in Greensboro on April 27, 1929. Grace Anderson reported one in Statesville on September 18, 1940. Elizabeth Clarkson reported studying a Nashville Warbler “at length” each day from October 5 to 7, 1952, at her garden in Wing Haven. She later reported a spring migrant there on April 29, 1961. H. Lee Jones reported a Nashville Warbler in Mecklenburg County on April 24, 1963.

Ronnie Underwood and Chip Shafer reported two Nashville Warblers on the Iredell Spring Bird Count on April 26, 1965. The birds were “seen within an hour of each other in some bottom land along South Yadkin River. Although it was overcast and the light was rather poor, both birds were approached near enough to distinguish the bright yellow throat, white eye-ring, and the gray hood.” On September 22, 1978, Dick Brown collected a dead Nashville Warbler from the base of the WRET television tower in Mecklenburg County. He later added the specimen to the zoological collection at UNC Charlotte.

In the mid-1980s, it was reported in *American Birds* magazine that the Nashville Warbler “has increased noticeably in the Region [Carolinas] as a fall migrant over the past 10 years and is not as rare as the literature indicates.” Birders submitted three separate reports of Nashville Warbler in Charlotte during fall migration in 1983. One bird was reported by Heathy Walker on the late



date of 8 November that year. Paul Hart reported one at Crowders Mountain State Park on May 2, 1986. Exactly one year later, Kerry Provence reported a Nashville Warbler at McAlpine Greenway during the Charlotte Spring Bird Count held on May 2, 1987. The compiler noted that “adequate details” were provided. Heathy Walker reported one in Charlotte on April 30, 1989. Taylor Piephoff found one moving through Mecklenburg County on September 20, 1989, just before Hurricane Hugo hit Charlotte. The Nashville Warbler has been reported annually in the Central Carolinas since 1998.

On December 6, 2008, Larry Barden and three others found a late Nashville Warbler in a weeping willow tree while birding at the Evergreen Nature Preserve. He submitted a detailed written report of this sight record that, in 2010, was officially accepted by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee as the first winter record of this species ever recorded in the western half of the state. Just over a year later, Tom Sanders discovered another Nashville Warbler wintering in Charlotte at Latta Park in Dilworth on January 20, 2010. “I was rewarded with 40 minutes of eye level looks at a Nashville Warbler foraging in some ivy on a large sycamore tree. ...It was hanging out in a mixed flock of chickadees, titmice, juncos and kinglets.” Penny Soars reported one in her yard in Huntersville on December 6, 2010.

Ginger Walters photographed a Nashville Warbler in her yard in Cabarrus County on Thanksgiving Day in 2016. She saw it again in December and then observed possibly the same bird in her bird bath on February 23, 2017, and again on April 16, 2017.