

Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla*



Folk Name: Wilson's Black-capped Fly-catching Warbler,
Wilson's Blackcap

Status: Migrant

Abundance: Rare

Habitat: Thickets near water

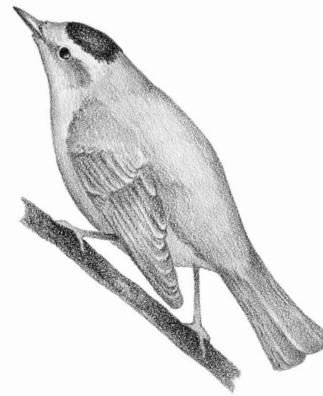
The Wilson's Warbler is a breeding bird of the extreme northeastern United States, Canada, and the western United States. It generally migrates through the west and winters south of the United States border, but some migrants move through the Carolinas. Just over two dozen records of Wilson's Warbler have been documented in the Central Carolinas. Half of these were sighted between 2 May and 20 May. The rest were found between 4 September and 2 November. Two birds were found lingering in the region from December 2003 through the first week of February 2004. Our maximum single day count is two birds.

Leverett Loomis collected a specimen of a Wilson's Warbler in Chester County on May 10, 1887, and he later lamented "in all these years but a single individual...has fallen to my gun." Arthur T. Wayne considered Loomis' specimen as the only "authentic record for the state" of South Carolina as of 1910. Later, Sprunt and Chamberlain praised Loomis as an "indefatigable worker" for his collection of this and other first state specimens which he discovered in the South Carolina Piedmont. Almost exactly 40 years after Loomis collected his Wilson's Warbler in South Carolina, Elmer Brown found a single male Wilson's Warbler in Salisbury on May 8, 1927.

Mrs. A.W. Bachman reported the first Wilson's Warbler in Mecklenburg County on September 19, 1943. Bill and



Wilson's Warbler stunned after hitting a building in downtown Charlotte. (Steve Thomas)



Flo Cobey found a Wilson's Warbler in Charlotte on November 1–2, 1956. Joe and Becky Norwood reported a Wilson's Warbler present in Charlotte from September 29 through October 2, 1956.

Sam Cathey reported one Wilson's Warbler on the Iredell Spring Bird Count held on May 11, 1974. UNC Charlotte Professor Dick Brown and his class collected a specimen at the WRET television tower in Mecklenburg County on October 11, 1979.

The compiler of the 1983 Charlotte Spring Bird Count provided this note: "David Dunham's party carefully studied the Wilson's Warblers, rare migrants for this area during spring." Dunham found two traveling together that day. David Wright found a pair of male Wilson's Warblers at a wastewater treatment plant in Davidson on October 2, 1984. He noted they were "great finds...both popped up like brilliant flashes of yellow, as those I've seen in the past." Steven Biggers reported seeing a "distinctly black-capped male" Wilson's Warbler off Faulkner Road in York County on October 2, 1985. Two Wilson's Warblers were counted on the Charlotte Spring Bird Count held on May 7, 1988. Wilson's Warblers were seen in the yard of Heathy Walker near Myers Park in Charlotte on 14 May and again on 15 May in 1989.

Kevin Hennings reported seeing a Wilson's Warbler at Freedom Park in Charlotte on May 7, 1993. Irvin Pitts found one in Spartanburg County on May 15, 1997.

John Buckman found two along the McAlpine Creek Greenway in Charlotte on October 12, 2001, and another there a year later on September 6, 2002. One lingered in Charlotte from December 31, 2003, through February 14, 2004, and another was seen near Lake Norman in January 2004.

Stephen Thomas photographed a "pooped-out" and possibly injured Wilson's Warbler lying on the streets of Charlotte on May 6, 2007. The bird may possibly have struck one of the buildings during migration. Lori

Owenby reported finding a Wilson's Warbler at Riverbend Park in Conover, NC, on May 19, 2007.

Bob McLean reported seeing a Wilson's Warbler in New Sterling, Iredell County, on May 2, 2012. Dwayne Martin reported a Wilson's Warbler at Riverbend Park in Conover, NC, on September 10, 2010, and one was seen on a greenway in Morganton (Burke County) on August 27, 2012.

Kevin Metcalf heard and later saw a male Wilson's Warbler singing at Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge on Mother's Day morning, May 12, 2013. Ron Clark found

one at Ribbonwalk Nature Preserve in Charlotte on September 12, 2013.

Dwayne Martin reported a Wilson's Warbler at Glenn Hilton Memorial Park in Catawba County on September 11, 2015. Monroe Pannell reported another Wilson's Warbler (possibly the same bird) there 2 days later. Martina Nordstrand reported one in Union County on October 11, 2016.

The State of the Birds 2014 Report indicates the breeding population of the Wilson's Warbler is rapidly declining throughout its North American breeding range.