



The Connecticut Warbler is less well-studied than other warblers due to its inconspicuous behavior. Alberta, Saskatchewan and BC represent the western edge of its breeding range.

Connecticut Warbler

(*Oporornis agilis*)

STATUS

SARA

NO STATUS
SECURE

Alberta

British Columbia

BLUE
NO STATUS

Saskatchewan

PRIMARY HABITAT

Aspen/Mixedwood with shrubs

TERRITORY SIZE

0.25–0.48 ha

NEST TYPE

Ground

NEST REUSE

No

STAND LEVEL

Patches >5 ha containing mature aspen (>40 years) and fruiting species in the shrub layer.

LANDSCAPE LEVEL

Patches within 5 km of larger mature aspen or mixedwood forests.

BREEDING WINDOW



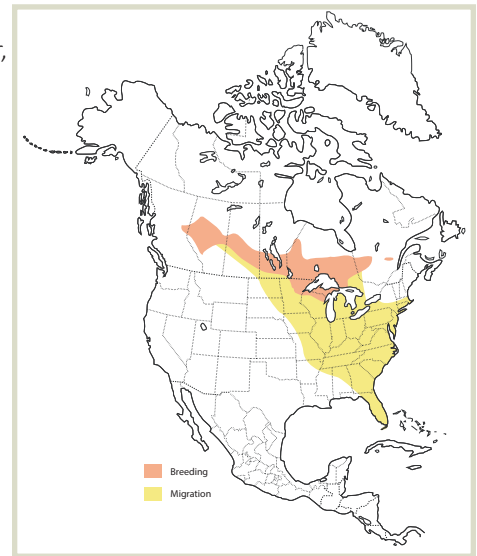
HABITAT ECOLOGY

- Connecticut Warblers are mainly found in deciduous forests and aspen-leading mixedwoods with a well-developed shrub layer (aspen, rose, beaked hazelnut, alder, willow, and fruiting shrubs).^{1,2} However, its habitat selection is highly variable across its range:
 - It is also found at the edges of small meadows, wetter stands with high tamarack cover and low shrubs,^{1,2} and in eastern North America, muskegs and lowland conifer forests.³
- This species occupies a range of stand ages ranging from 0–10 years to mature and old (>76 years) aspen and mixedwood forests.^{4,5}
- Its nest is built on or near the ground, often in thickets, clumps of vegetation, or at the base of a shrub.¹

RESPONSE TO FOREST MANAGEMENT

- This species is more abundant in recently burned than recently harvested forest,⁶ and is more abundant in burned riparian forest than intact or partially-harvested riparian buffers.⁷
- In BC, the largest threats to Connecticut warbler include 1) herbicide application to reduce understory vegetation and deciduous regeneration and 2) logging of aspen stands.¹
- Connecticut Warbler has shown mixed responses to retention harvesting. High retention (>20%) appears to have a negative effect, however lower retention levels (e.g., 10%) may benefit this species.⁸
- Regenerating clear-cut stands (i.e., no planned retention) are likely to contain Connecticut Warblers from 15–25 years postharvest.⁹

RANGE MAP



STAND-LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Managers should establish large retention patches (>5 ha) where possible, containing mature aspen or poplar and a well-developed shrub and herbaceous layer (particularly fruiting shrubs).^{5,10}
- Retention harvesting (e.g., 10% retention in small, evenly distributed clumps) may be beneficial.⁸ Avoiding shrub and understory suppression using herbicides is also important for this species.¹
- Mid-seral regenerating stands (15–25 years postharvest) may provide habitat for this species.⁹