

Warblers of the Chicago Region (PARULIDAE)

M = Migrant (seen in Spring, Fall)
BR = Breeding (seen in Summer)
R = Rare in Chicago Area

Maureen Marsh and Cathy Walz

All photos are of male birds in breeding plumage unless otherwise noted. Bird groupings for this guide were based on similarity of colors or features to facilitate direct comparison between species. For example, birds with yellow chests and black streaking were placed alongside one another. Consult a field manual for additional classifications, descriptions, and images, including female (**fem.**) and immature (**imm.**) birds.

Photos © by: Laurel Ahlenius, Josh Feeney, Ken Koontz, John Picken, and Mark Vaughan. Input from Josh Engel.
Produced by: Maureen Marsh and Cathy Walz.

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Laurel Ahlenius

1 *Setophaga coronata*
Yellow-rumped Warbler

Streaky. Yellow rump. Yellow patches on “shoulders” more easily seen. **M**



John Picken

2 *Vermivora chrysoptera*
Golden-winged Warbler

Black throat and mask bordered by white. Yellow forehead. Yellow wing panel. **M**



Laurel Ahlenius

3 *Setophaga dominica*
Yellow-throated Warbler

Yellow throat and upper breast. Black cheeks extending to streaks on sides. **M, BR**



Laurel Ahlenius

4 *Setophaga virens*
Black-throated Green Warbler

Yellow face. Black throat. Black streaks on side. **M**



Josh Feeney

5 *Setophaga tigrina*
Cape May Warbler

Yellow face with chestnut ear patch, throat. Black streaks on sides of chest, meet at throat. **M**



John Picken

6 *Setophaga discolor*
Prairie Warbler (fem.)

Black stripes on sides of chest. Yellow eyebrow. Black spot on side of neck. Male: black eyeline and semicircle under eye. **M, R**



Ken Koontz

7 *Dendroica kirtlandii*
Kirtland's Warbler

Dark above. Yellow below. Black spots/streaks along sides and breast. Bobs tail up and down. **M, R**



Mark Vaughan

8 *Setophaga petechia*
Yellow Warbler

All yellow. Rusty streaks on breast. **M, BR (widespread)**



Josh Feeney

9 *Setophaga magnolia*
Magnolia Warbler

Black/gray above. Yellow below. Thick black necklace and streaks on sides, white wing panel. **M**



Laurel Ahlenius

10 *Cardellina canadensis*
Canada Warbler

Gray above. Yellow below. Necklace of black streaks. White or yellow eye-ring. **M**



John Picken

11 *Mniotilta varia*
Black-and-white Warbler

Boldly streaked on head, throat, chest, and sides. **M, BR**



Laurel Ahlenius

12 *Setophaga striata*
Blackpoll Warbler

Black cap. White cheeks. Black streaks on sides and back. **M**

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13 *Setophaga ruticilla*
American Redstart
Black head and chest. Orange patches on sides, wings and tail.
M, BR



14 *Setophaga fusca*
Blackburnian Warbler
Bright orange face and throat. "Fire-throat". **M**



15 *Setophaga caerulescens*
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Blue above. Black throat and sides. White patch on wings. **M**



16 *Setophaga cerulea*
Cerulean Warbler
Blue head, back, and tail with thin black chest band. **M**



17 *Vermivora cyanoptera*
Blue-winged Warbler
Yellow. Narrow black eyeline. Bluish-gray wings with 2 white wingbars. **M, BR**



18 *Setophaga pinus*
Pine Warbler
Yellow underneath. Darker yellow above. Two white wingbars. No eyeline. **M, BR**



19 *Protonotaria citrea*
Prothonotary Warbler
Yellow with bluish-gray wings. No eyeline or wingbars. **M, BR**



20 *Setophaga ruticilla*
Northern Parula
Yellow throat/chest, reddish-black chest band. Blue/gray back, two white wingbars. White eye-arcs. **M**



21 *Setophaga citrina*
Hooded Warbler
Black cowl encircles bright yellow face and forehead. **M, BR**



22 *Cardellina pusilla*
Wilson's Warbler
Olive above. Yellow below. Black cap looks like "beanie". **M**



23 *Geothlypis formosa*
Kentucky Warbler
Black sideburns extending from eyes. Yellow spectacles. **M**



24 *Geothlypis trichas*
Common Yellowthroat
Black mask bordered above by white. Yellow throat and breast. **M, BR (widespread)**

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 25 *Setophaga castanea*
Bay-breasted Warbler

Chestnut on crown, throat, upper breast. Black face. **M**


 26 *Setophaga pensylvanica*
Chestnut-sided Warbler

Bright yellow crown. Chestnut sides. **M, BR**


 27 *Setophaga palmarum*
Palm Warbler

Chestnut cap. Light streaks along sides. Yellow under the tail. Bobs tail up and down. **M**


 28 *Oreothlypis celata*
Orange-crowned Warbler

Very plain. Olive-green above, greenish-yellow below. Faint line above eye. **M**


 29 *Oporornis agilis*
Connecticut Warbler

Yellow below. Grayish head, throat, and upper breast. White eye-ring. **M**


 30 *Geothlypis philadelphia*
Mourning Warbler

Gray hood encircles head and neck. Black bib. Yellow chest. **M**


 31 *Oreothlypis ruficapilla*
Nashville Warbler

Gray head with yellow throat and breast. White eye-ring. **M**


 32 *Oreothlypis peregrina*
Tennessee Warbler

Gray to green crown. White to yellow eyebrow stripe. Green back. Whitish-yellow chest. **M**


 33 *Parkesia motacilla*
Louisiana Waterthrush

Whitish eyebrow and underparts. Throat usually clear, without streaks. **M, BR**


 34 *Parkesia noveboracensis*
Northern Waterthrush

Pale yellow eye-stripe. Brown stripes on throat, chest, belly with yellowish underparts. **M**


 35 *Seiurus aurocapilla*
Ovenbird

Orange crown patch bordered by brown stripes on head. Brown stripes on chest. **M, BR**


 36 *Helmitheros vermivorum*
Worm-eating Warbler

Mustard colored head with black stripes. Beige breast. **M, R**