

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*)

Nesting from the Arctic Circle south to Mexico, the little Yellow Warbler is one of North America's most widely distributed birds. Winters are spent in the tropics of Central and South America.

They are most commonly found in the willows and alders along the banks of streams and ponds where their sweet songs ring out. Brightly outfitted with lemon yellow feathers (males have reddish streaks on their chests), they are some of the earliest warblers to return in the spring.

Females build the nests, while males defend their territory by singing and performing a variety of flight displays. 4-5 tiny eggs are incubated solely by the female. She is fed a diet of insects, spiders and, sometimes, berries by her mate when she is on the nest. Males provide some help with feeding the young. As with many small birds, their nests may be parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). When this happens, nests may be abandoned or the warblers may build a new nest on top of the unwanted Cowbird eggs.