

inSTALLations

May 2010

Amazing Animals Wonderful Warblers

Over 30 species of warblers have been documented at Chippewa Nature Center since the 1970s. May is a great time to look for these birds as they pass through on their way north and as some of the local species establish territories and begin nesting after returning from their wintering grounds.



The Yellow Warbler is a common species that can be found in thickets around wetlands, ponds, old fields and gardens. Nests are built in a fork in a shrub or tree and are generally less than 10 feet from the ground. The female builds the nest using plant fibers, often lining it with deer hair

or fuzzy plant material like dandelion or cottonwood seeds. Yellow warblers do not reuse nests, but may use materials from an old nest in the construction of the new one.

The Ovenbird is not as showy as the Yellow Warbler, but can easily be heard if it is present. The song of the male as he establishes and maintains a territory and tries to attract a mate rings throughout the forest as “Teacher-teacher.” These birds nest in mature forests composed primarily of deciduous trees. Females are the sole nest builders. They use grasses and fibrous plants to weave a ground nest with a domed cover and side entrance.



Look for these little treasures as you wander the woods and thickets along our trails.

Golden-winged Warbler



These small, but beautiful birds were once sighted annually around CNC. In the last few years they have been sighted only occasionally at the wetlands during breeding season or in the forests during migration.

This species has been declining throughout its range in recent decades. Its need for shrubby areas, which over time change to mature forests, may explain its absence from some areas.

Golden-winged Warblers are also victims of nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds. The cowbirds lay their eggs in warbler nests. Warblers hatch and raise the cowbird young, often at the expense of the warbler’s own chicks.

Visit the Temporary Visitor Center for program information.