

The Golden-winged Warbler in Northern New York: In common with a number of species having southern affinities, the Golden-winged Warbler has been extending its range northward. It is now well established in parts of central New York, and there have been recent sporadic observations further north in the state. Northern New York records have been scarce and David Gordon in his 1968 Check List for Region 6 calls the Golden-winged Warbler "very rare".

My initial observation of this species was a singing male seen in May 1964 a few miles north of Gouverneur. Four years later, again in May, a pair was seen some miles to the west of the previous location. In June of the same year another pair was discovered not far away. In the latter area a nest was found in 1969. This nesting was unsuccessful having been broken up and abandoned soon after the eggs had been laid. (see "Kingbird" Vol. 19 #3, p. 168).

Returning to the same area in 1970 I found a singing male on May 3. There appeared to be two or three males in this area as was true the previous year. On May 20 the nest of a Golden-winged Warbler was found some 100 yards from the 1969 location. Only two eggs were laid, although the normal clutch is reported to be four or five. On June 11 there were two tiny nestlings. Nine days later the nest was empty. Both adults were nearby, the male very agitated. However the young were not located.

In addition to the above observations a Golden-winged Warbler has been heard near Pitcairn in southern St. Lawrence County, and in May of this year (1970) a male was seen in the town of Theresa in Jefferson County. It would appear that there has been a definite change in the status of this species in northern New York in recent years.

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Black-throated Gray Warbler at Central Park, New York, N.Y.: Sunday, 24 May, 1970 was a humid, overcast day with periods of drizzle following a night of scattered showers. At 9 a.m. shortly after entering Central Park I found a male Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrecens*) in a grove of deciduous trees south of the 86th street transverse, just west of East Drive. It was an excellent specimen of this species which I knew well from a year in California. I clearly saw the distinctive combination of solid black cap, black cheek, and black throat. It was singing "zur zur zee' zur", the next to last note higher than the rest. Ogden Goelet, Ronald Dwight, and I heard it sing infrequently, about once every 15 minutes to 10:15 a.m. The bird disappeared then, although we stayed until noon there was no further sign of it. However, in the late afternoon it reappeared and was seen by Bill Baumann, Rudy Novomevsky, and Carol Taylor.

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Another New York State Townsend's Warbler: During the afternoon of 9 May 1970 I was birdwatching with Dr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Holloway, Jr. at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Kings County. At about three o'clock we were in the area known as the North Garden when I spotted a bird which I immediately recognized as a male Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*); a species I had previously seen in Mexico. We watched it for several minutes through 7 x 35 binoculars at a distance of approximately 30 feet as it nervously flitted about, at eye level, among the branches of a sparsely foliated Willow-Oak (*Quercus phellos*). The bird was similar to nearby Black-throated Green Warblers (*Dendroica virens*) except for a prominent black patch on the yellow cheek, a black forehead and crown, and black stripes on the greenish back. The underparts were also reminiscent of a Black-throated Green, except that the black of the throat did not extend onto the breast which was bright yellow. The lower abdomen was white, the sides were streaked with black, and there were conspicuous white spots in the tail.

We later learned that this bird had been found independently about three hours earlier, in the same area, by Marie Longyear.

There are five other records of Townsend's Warbler from New York State:

1. Prospect Park, King Co., 8-10 May 1947. A male found by Malcom A. Jacobson and subsequently seen by Walter Sedwitz, Geoffrey Carleton, Irwin Alperin, *et al* (Jacobsen, *Auk* 65: 459, 1948).
2. Central Park, New York Co., 4 May 1963. A singing male found by Irving Cantor and seen later the same day by Benjamin Gilbert and Betty Loeb (Cantor, *Linn. Newsletter* vol 18, No. 2, April 1964).
3. Hewlett Harbor, Nassau Co., 10 November 1963. A male in almost full breeding plumage found by Geoffrey Glassberg and later identified by Richard A. Sloss and confirmed by Dr. Ben Berliner (Sloss, *Linn. Newsletter* vol. 18, No. 2, April 1964).
4. Bronx Botanical Garden, Bronx Co., 9 May 1964. An adult male seen by Charles F. Young, Si Stepinoff, *et al* (Carleton, *Aud. Field Notes* 18: 439, 1964).
5. Thompson's Pond, Pine Plains, Dutchess Co., 24 April 1965. An adult male seen by Eleanor Pink, Marion Van Wagner, *et al* (Pink, *Kingbird* 15: 223, 1965).

Elsewhere east of the Mississippi River there are two two sight records from Ontario: Point Pelee, 1 May 1966 (*Aud. Field Notes* 20: 504, 1966) and Bradley's Marsh, 15 May 1966 (*Aud. Field Notes* 20: 504, 1966); a specimen collected on 17 September 1939 at Gulfport, Mississippi (Bent, *U.S. National Mus. Bull.* No. 203, p. 291, 1953), and an adult male seen at Oxford, Mississippi on 3 May 1967 (*Aud. Field Notes* 21: 516, 1967). There is also an old sight record from Massachusetts (Naushon Island, 26 November 1927) which was relegated to the Massachusetts hypothetical list by Griscom and Snyder (*The Birds of Massachusetts*, Peabody Mus., Salem, 1955).

According to Carleton (personal communication) both the Prospect and Central Park birds were identified as sub-adults because of the mottled edges of the black throat, and an incompletely black crown. Although the Jamaica Bay individual had a solid black throat the crown feathers were edged with greenish-yellow, which may or may not be remnants of immature plumage.

Note the preponderance of spring records of this species in contrast to the fall occurrence of most western strays.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

April 1 – May 31

E. M. REILLY, JR.

For the first time in more than six years the weather conditions during the spring months were normal or near-normal particularly in the month of May in all regions reporting. The fine weather certainly resulted in more observers taking to the field and happily reporting good waves