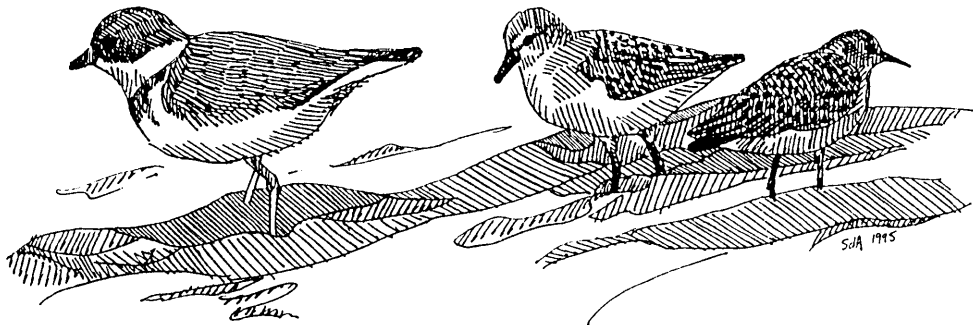




CANADA WARBLER NESTING ON LONG ISLAND

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The second confirmed Long Island nesting of Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*), the first in twenty-five years, was noted at Maple Swamp, Southampton Town, Suffolk County, on June 27, 1996.

On that date, a pair of Canada Warblers was observed carrying food and in an extreme state of agitation. Young birds, apparently the fledglings, were heard and briefly glimpsed in the dense swamp undergrowth just beyond. At least one adult bird was seen on June 29 again carrying food and in a similar state of agitation. This is a "Confirmed" nesting by the standards of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*.

On June 21, 1971, Robert Geffen found a nest with five young in a swampy area of what is now Connetquot River State Park; that nest was collected and is in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History (Geffen 1971; Bull 1974). Singing Canadas were subsequently found on several occasions in suitable wetlands in central and eastern Long Island during the 1970s and early '80s (Bull 1976:41; pers. obs.; Bonney 1988). The species seemed to be about to colonize Long Island in much the same way that the Brown Creeper, another northern species at the southern edge of its range in the coastal plain, had done so a decade

or two earlier (Levine 1988). However, the relative handful of Atlas observations (four "Possibles" and one "Probable") were not followed by any subsequent reports and a search of *Kingbird* Region 10 accounts since the early 1980s found only listings of arrival and departure dates.

In spite of the fact that it is generally recorded as arriving in late April or early May in the New York City parks, Canada Warbler is one of the latest birds of passage on Long Island and migrants can often be found well into June. This was a notably big year for this species with large numbers moving through eastern Long Island in the last week of May and the early part of June. Canada Warblers sing extensively and can appear to be territorial in spring migration, especially when found in wooded swampy habitat. (All of the above based on personal observation and conversations with other observers).

Ironically enough, the breeding birds were located on the territory of a male Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) which had been active in the immediate vicinity since May 26. Most Long Island records of this latter species have been confined to singing males in May and June and this was no exception. To my knowledge, hybridization is not known to occur in *Wilsonia* and is highly unlikely in this case as both males were observed.

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