

# Pine Warbler

*Dendroica pinus*



PHOTO BY VIREO



Pine warblers remain almost entirely within pine forests, both during the breeding season and through the winter. It is the only bird in the forest with a bright yellow throat and white wing bars.

*Northern Pineywoods*

# Pine Warbler

*Dendroica pinus*



## APPEARANCE

**Length:** 4.75 to 5.5 inches (12 to 14 cm)

**Wingspan:** 9 inches (22 cm)

### Distinguishing Characteristics

- Olive-colored back and upper wings
- White wing bars
- Yellow throat and breast
- Small, active bird
- Thin, pointed bills

## LIFE HISTORY

**Range:** Eastern United States, especially in pine forests, riparian areas and oak woodlands

**Diet:** Insects, fruits and seeds

**Predators:** Hawks and other birds of prey

**Sexual maturity:** At one year

**Mating season:** Mid-March through early June

**Nests:** Cup-shaped and made of bark strips, pine needles, twigs and other fine material 25 to 40 feet (7.5 to 12.5 m) above ground near the branch tips of pine trees

**Eggs:** Three to five eggs, white with brown spots

**Incubation:** About ten days

**Young:** The young are *altricial* (born with their eyes closed and bald), but they open their eyes, grow feathers and fledge all within about ten days of hatching.

**Life span:** Less than five years

## HABITAT

Pine warblers prefer mature jack pine and pitch pine woodlands, mixed with hardwoods.

## BEHAVIOR

Pine warblers spend most of their time in pine forests, overwintering in the southern United States with a relatively short migration in the spring to more northern states. However, some pine warblers are permanent Texas residents.

## NOW YOU KNOW!

- The scientific name for this species describes its habitat: *dendron* (a tree); *oicos* (inhabitants); and *pinus* (a pine tree).
- Pine warblers are among the most abundant warblers in the forest, able to adapt to different types of food available at different times of year.
- Their more subdued coloring makes them more difficult to see than some of the more brightly colored warblers.

## PINE WARBLERS AND PEOPLE

Although not endangered now, good forest management will insure that pine warblers will survive into the future. Pine warblers will need forests with groups of pine trees and hardwoods and minimal human disturbance.