Wood warblers are members of the Family Parulidae. They are small birds that use their needlelike bill to capture the insects that make up the majority of their diet. Males and females have a similar appearance in some of the species, while in others, the male and female have different feather coloration (dimorphism). In spring and summer the dimorphic males and the males and females of the other wood-warbler species are brilliantly colored, but in fall, most warbler species have drab coloration, and identification may be difficult. Wood-warblers are migratory birds. They winter from the southern United States to South America. Nineteen wood-warbler species are known to breed in Illinois. They are the species featured on this poster. Eighteen other wood-warbler species migrate through the state, and five species are casual visitors to Illinois. Wood-warblers are vital components of Illinois’ ecosystems and their associated food webs. You can learn more about each species on the back side of the poster.
Species Descriptions

Illinois Birds: Volume 2

Prairie Warbler

Species: Setophaga petechia

Description: The male has a black mask, yellow throat and yellow on the belly with dark stripes on the sides. The female has a similar color pattern but without the black mask. The nest is built on the ground and typically contains four to five eggs. Males sing a cheery, uplifting song.

Yellow-throated Warbler

Species: Setophaga petechia

Description: This species has a white throat and yellow breast with dark stripes on the sides and a white tail with dark bars. The male has a bright golden yellow head and back. The female has a similar color pattern but without the black mask. Males sing a cheery, uplifting song.

Yellow-throated Warbler

Species: Setophaga petechia

Description: The male and female have black masks, yellow throats and yellow breasts with dark stripes on the sides. The nest is built on the ground and typically contains four to five eggs. Males sing a cheery, uplifting song.

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