

New World Warblers – 4

By Bruce Poulter

Elfin Woods Warbler (*Setophaga angelae*)



This species, formerly *Dendroica angelae*, which is endemic to Puerto Rico, was only 'discovered' in 1972. This is probably due to its remote habitat and restricted range. It may also be because of its habit of keeping to the treetops where only its heavily streaked underparts are generally available. Did early observers mistake it for a Black-and-white Warbler? It is considered to be near-threatened because of its small range but there is probably enough of its original forest to ensure that it is not immediately threatened. It features once on stamps, namely from Sierra Leone (2015, 6000 leone).

Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*)



This rather small and dainty warbler occurs at fairly low altitudes in tropical and submontane forest in Central and South America. It falls into three main groups, which have sometimes been considered as separate species. All individuals have yellow underparts, a broad, blackish lateral crown stripe and orange-yellow legs. Otherwise the groups – one in Central America, one in Colombia and one in central-eastern South America - are very variable. It features twice on stamps, namely Tanzania (1999, 370/=) and Guyana (2007, \$160)



Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*)



This warbler, formerly *Wilsonia citrina*, which commonly breeds in the lowland woods of southeastern North America, winters in Central America. The male, shown left, has an extensive glossy black hood surrounding its yellow face and forecrown. The female also has an extensive hood, but it is always washed greenish and never glossy or complete. This warbler features on nine stamps, most often under its former name. Shown here are St. Vincent (1997, \$1) and Grenada (1985, 70 cents).



Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)

This species, formerly *Dendroica kirtlandii*, is the rarest warbler in North America nesting only in a small area of Jack Pines in central Michigan. Continuous habitat management and control of the non-parasitic Brown-headed Cowbird are essential for its survival. It is a long distance migrant, seldom seen on migration as it heads for Florida and across to the Bahamas, the only place that it winters. It features on several Bahamas stamps including this miniature sheet (1995, \$2)



Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*)



This warbler, formerly *Seiurus motacilla*, is restricted as a breeding bird to the southeastern part of North America. It breeds in wooded ravines by running streams and in wooded swamps. Territories are usually long and narrow following a ravine or stream. It winters mainly in Central America and the West Indies where it maintains its preference for running water. Its best distinction is the broad, pure white supercilium. It features once on stamps, namely on a miniature sheet from St. Vincent (2007, \$6).

Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*)



This bird, formerly *Dendroica magnolia*, is more variable in its plumage than any other warbler. There is so much overlap that, apart from adult males, many birds cannot be aged accurately in spring or autumn. Conspicuous features are the yellow rump in all plumages and the white spots in the centre of its tail.

It breeds across northern North America and winters in Central America and the West Indies. It features on two stamps from the Turks and Caicos Islands (1993, 65 cents and 1985, 25 cents).



Myrtle Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*)



This species, formerly *Dendroica coronata*, is one of the most abundant of all the warblers. It is an early migrant and its distinctly sharp call can often be heard in the north while the snow is on the ground. The conspicuous yellow rump is distinctive at all times. The adult male also has conspicuous yellow patches on its crown and breast sides. It

breeds in coniferous or mixed forests from Alaska to eastern North America. Like many other warblers it winters in Central America and the West Indies where it usually occurs in flocks, often with other species. Two of its three features on stamps are St. Pierre & Miquelon (2007, 0.44€) and British Virgin Islands (2005, 15 cents).



Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*)



This warbler, formerly *Parula americana*, is a brightly patterned gem! It is very small, short-tailed and plumpish! It is blue-grey above with two white wingbars, while the yellow throat and breast contrast with white lower underparts. Its status is recorded as 'common'. This is another warbler breeding in eastern North America in deciduous or coniferous woods often associated with old man's beard or Spanish Moss. It winters in Mexico south to Nicaragua and in the West Indies. It features several times on stamps including Caribbean

Netherlands (2017, 99 cents) and British Virgin Islands (2005, 75 cents).

