# Spring Warbler Identification Guide

Each spring, millions of neotropical migrants cross the Gulf of Mexico, making landfall along the Upper Texas Coast. This guide highlights the 38 most common warbler species encountered during spring migration. Designed for use in our coastal sanctuaries and across the Houston region, it features adult males in peak breeding plumage. Use key field marks–including wing bars, eye lines, and throat patterns–to identify these diverse insectivorous migrants in the field.



Ovenbird



Worm-eating Warbler



Louisiana Waterthrush



Northern Waterthrush



Golden-winged Warbler



Blue-winged Warbler



Brewster's Warbler
(Hybrid)



Lawrence's Warbler
(Hybrid)



Black-and-white Warbler



Prothonotary Warbler



Swainson's Warbler



Tennessee Warbler



Orange-crowned Warbler



Nashville Warbler



Connecticut Warbler



Mourning Warbler



Kentucky Warbler



Common Yellowthroat



Hooded Warbler



American Redstart



Cape May Warbler



Cerulean Warbler



Northern Parula



Magnolia Warbler



Bay-breasted Warbler



Blackburnian Warbler



Yellow Warbler



Chestnut-sided Warbler



Blackpoll Warbler



Black-throated Blue Warbler



Palm Warbler



Pine Warbler



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Yellow-throated Warbler



Prairie Warbler



Black-throated Green Warbler



Canada Warbler



Wilson's Warbler


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| Warbler | Mar | | | | Apr | | | | May | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ovenbird | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Worm-eating Warbler | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • | • |
| Northern Waterthrush | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Golden-winged Warbler | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Blue-winged Warbler | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • |
| Brewster's Warbler (Hybrid) | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Lawrence's Warbler (Hybrid) | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Black-and-white Warbler | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Prothonotary Warbler | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • |
| Swainson's Warbler | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • | • |
| Tennessee Warbler | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • | • | • | • |
| Nashville Warbler | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • | • |
| Connecticut Warbler | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Mourning Warbler | • | • | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • |
| Kentucky Warbler | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • |
| Common Yellowthroat | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Hooded Warbler | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| American Redstart | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Cape May Warbler | • | • | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | • | • | • | • |
| Cerulean Warbler | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Northern Parula | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Magnolia Warbler | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Blackburnian Warbler | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Yellow Warbler | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Blackpoll Warbler | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | • | • | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | • | • | • |
| Palm Warbler | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • | • | • |
| Pine Warbler | • | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • | • |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • | • |
| Prairie Warbler | • | • | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | • | • | • | • |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Canada Warbler | • | • | • | • | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • |
| Wilson's Warbler | • | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | • | • |

Illustrations by Jen Brumfield

Spring Abundance

- Low
- Medium
- High