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Kale, H. W., II, B. Pranty, B. M. Stith, and C. W. Biggs. 1992. The atlas of the breeding birds of Florida. Final Report. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

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Pine Warbler *Dendroica pinus*

From an ecological perspective the Pine Warbler is probably the most aptly named of all the wood warblers. Throughout their range they breed mostly in mature, open pine forests and also in less mature pine stands >35 years old. Only during migration, and occasionally during winter, are they found away from pines.

Pine Warblers breed in southern Canada, the eastern half of the United States, and in the Bahamas. In winter, their range shifts outward into the southern United States and northeastern Mexico. In Florida, Pine Warblers are common residents. Florida has 2 breeding subspecies: *D. p. pinus* in the Panhandle and *D. p. florida* in the peninsula.

Habitat. In Florida the Pine Warbler is found in pine flatwoods and mixed pine-hardwood forests (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Pine Warblers feed on a great variety of insects and spiders picked from the needles or bark of pines. In winter they also eat seeds and berries.

The nest, a tightly woven mixture of needles and grasses lined with finer materials, is typically concealed in a clump of pine needles or cones near the end of a high branch. The clutch usually consists of 4 whitish eggs spotted or blotched with various shades of brown. Few nests have been studied, but incubation is probably 12 to 14 days. The young are believed to fledge at about 12 days of age.

Seasonal Occurrence. The Pine Warbler is a permanent resident throughout most of Florida. Its numbers increase in Florida and the southern United States in the winter due to the influx of birds from the north. Seasonal migrations peak in September through November and again in March.

Breeding in Florida begins in late March. Two or more broods are raised each season in Florida.

Status. The Atlas map for the Pine Warbler should be reliable because the bird's distinctive, far-carrying trilling song makes it a conspicuous denizen of the pinelands. Considering the extent of Florida's pinelands, it is not surprising that Pine Warblers breed so widely. They are understandably absent from the mangrove forests of mainland Monroe County, the sugarcane fields southeast of Lake Okeechobee, and the treeless expanses of the Everglades. Pine Warblers do occur in pine islands in the Everglades; however, the birds have not colonized an isolated pine forest in the Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge in the Lower Keys.

Duncan Stuart Evered

Sponsored by Jane E. Herrick



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