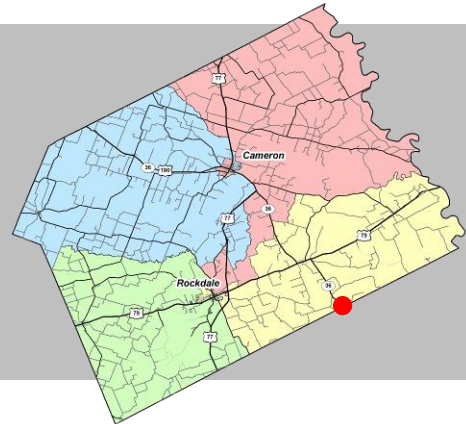


Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)



Physical Characteristics: Size: 11-13 cm(4-5in.)
Wingspan: 18-22cm(7-9in) Weight: 8-15g(.28-53oz) Slightly long, decurved bill; short, square tail. Black and white striped over most of body including wings and tail coverts. Belly mostly white. White stripe above and below eye. 2white wing bars. Male throat and cheeks black. Females and juveniles similar.

Family: Parulidae, Wood Warbler

Status: Widespread: abundant Neo Tropical migrant. Habitat loss due to forest fragmentation

Habitat: Primary and secondary deciduous forests, hillsides, ravines

Nesting: 4-6 purple spotted white eggs. Open cup ground nest of leaves, grass, lined with hair and ferns. Solitary nester, 1-2 broods per year. Altricial young. Parasitized by Brown Headed Cowbirds.

Food Habits: Crawl up and down tree trunks, probing long bills for caterpillars, insects, spiders. Early spring arrivals eat dormant insects, often hawk and hover.

Song: High pitched, simple 6-10 rhythmic two syllable "weesa." Flight call sharp "chip." Can be high hissing, "fsss."

Interesting facts: Unusually long hind claws to facilitate secure movement on tree bark.

Range: Eastern Forests