In eastern North America, breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are normally found in mixed and deciduous woodlands across Canada and the northern United States. Their breeding range extends south to northern Iowa, northern Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and locally along the Appalachian Mountains to western North Carolina (AOU 1983).

Since Ohio is located along the southern edge of their breeding range, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have always been accidental to rare and very locally distributed summer residents within the northern counties. Before 1920, breeding records were limited to confirmed nests in Wayne County in 1891 and Lorain County in 1901, while probable breeders were reported from Lorain County in 1897 and the Toledo area in 1907 (Baird 1905, Campbell 1968, Hicks 1935). During the 1920s and 1930s, their breeding status was better defined by Hicks (1933a, 1935). While he noted summering adults at Burton Bog in Geauga County and an unspecified location in northern Trumbull County, the only established population was in Ashtabula County. Summering adults were encountered at 12 locations within the county and were “not uncommon” at several areas such as the former Pymatuning Bog. The size of this population was never precisely estimated. Hicks (1933a) felt their numbers were rapidly declining during the late 1920s and early 1930s, primarily a result of habitat destruction.

During subsequent decades, there were few reports of breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in Ohio. However, occasional observations of summering sapsuckers in Ashtabula County and one reported nest in the Cleveland area in 1972 indicated that a small breeding population remained in the northeastern counties (Kleen and Bush 1972). The existence of this small population was confirmed during the Atlas Project when Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted at four locations in Ashtabula County and one site in Geauga County. Active nests were discovered at two Ashtabula County locations and breeding was considered probable in Geauga County. If these few records are representative of their status in these northeastern counties, then sapsuckers are very rare summer residents whose breeding population may total fewer than 10 pairs. However, this species is secretive during the breeding season and easily overlooked. Hence, their actual nesting population could be larger than these few records indicate. The current trends of this population are unknown, although their numbers have declined from those reported by Hicks (1933a).

Within Ohio, only Hicks (1933a) provides some insight into the habitat preferences of breeding sapsuckers. Most Ashtabula County pairs were found in aspen thickets bordering bogs or in wet beech woods with numerous yellow birches. Aspens and birches provided preferred nest sites. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have more versatile habitat requirements elsewhere in their range. Breeding pairs may be found in dry to wet woodlands, although wetter habitats may be preferred. The majority of sapsuckers occupy forests with a mixed composition of conifers and deciduous trees. However, deciduous trees are overwhelmingly preferred for nest sites (Peck and James 1983). Most cavities are newly excavated, usually at heights of 18–35 feet. Some pairs will reuse old cavities and sapsuckers will nest in trees that are occupied by other nesting woodpeckers.

The nesting chronology of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers has been poorly documented within Ohio. Their breeding activities are normally initiated during May. Based on reports of nests with young between June 6 and July 1 (Peterjohn 1989a), incubating adults should be most prevalent between May 10 and June 10. Recently fledged young are most likely to appear during late June or early July. Peck and James (1983) report a similar breeding chronology in Ontario, although they cited a few renesting attempts that were responsible for nests with eggs as late as mid–July.
### Analysis of Block Data by Physiographic Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physiographic Region</th>
<th>Total Blocks Surveyed</th>
<th>Blocks with Data</th>
<th>% with Data</th>
<th>Regional % for Ohio</th>
<th>Ave. # Indiv per BBS Route (1982–1987)</th>
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<tr>
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### Summary of Breeding Status

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<tr>
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