

## Yellow Warbler Nesting in Narrow-leaved Cattail

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We report on finding a Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) nest in Narrow-leaved Cattails (*Typha angustifolia*) in Cuyahoga County. Yellow Warblers are common nesters in the seven-county Cleveland region of Ohio (Rosche 2004) but are only recent nesters in the All Peoples Trail (boardwalk) area of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes (J. West, personal observation). Bent (1963) recounts a report from a Dr. Roberts of a nest made entirely of chicken feathers built in jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) that was completely destroyed by wind and rain. All other references (Dunn and Garrett 1997, Harrison 1975, Lowther *et al.* 1999, Peterjohn 2001), as well as other notations in Bent (1963) indicate Yellow Warbler nests are built in shrubs, saplings, or trees. Dunn and Garrett (1997) indicate placement in an upright fork, whereas Harrison (1975) indicates an upright fork or crotch.

On 11 June 2009, N. Beccue found a small nest containing four eggs in the cattails in the marsh next to a

deer path. The nest was constructed primarily of grass and lined with Crack and/or Black Willow (*Salix fragilis*, *S. nigra*) and Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) down and supported by three bands of grasses wrapped around the Narrow-leaved Cattail. Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) tangled around the cattails likely increased the stability of the nest location. No adult was flushed from or observed around the nest; a female Yellow Warbler had been observed by J. West on the nest in the willow earlier in the season, but only for a few days, and had apparently abandoned it. Two days later, Beccue observed a Yellow Warbler removing material from another Yellow Warbler nest in a willow on the edge of the marsh and taking it down to the area of the cattail nest. He also observed a flycatcher (species unknown) removing material from the abandoned nest and being chased away by a Yellow Warbler.

On 19 June 2009, J. West and N. Beccue observed a Yellow Warbler carrying food to the cattail marsh nest. On 22 June 2009, after not seeing any activity around the nest either that day or the day before, N. Beccue went out in the marsh to check the nest and found it empty. The nest did not appear to be disturbed. A field drawing, by N. Beccue, of the nest in the cattails is included here.

### Literature Cited

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yellow warbler nest  
@ the Nature Center  
at Shaker Lakes  
June 2009  
Cuyahoga County Ohio

June 11th - 4 eggs, light blue  
with brown speckles.

Nest Material of mostly grass, three  
primary bands of grass woven among  
three cattail stems supported a 3cm  
deep by 5cm diameter nest bowl.  
The nest was lined with willow and  
cottonwood down.

Nest was camouflaged by field bindweed  
leaves. Bindweed vines tangled  
between cattail likely increased the  
stability of the nest location.

*Typha angustifolia*  
Narrow-leaved cattail

Field Bindweed  
*Convolvulus arvensis*

