

Manitoba Species at Risk

Golden-winged Warbler

Vermivora chrysoptera



Christian Artuso

The Golden-winged Warbler is a provincially and federally Threatened migratory songbird. It is easily recognized by its silvery-grey body, white belly, and bright yellow patches on its forehead and wings. During the breeding season, they can be found in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec, where they live and breed in forest habitats.

Golden-winged Warblers have suffered one the of steepest population declines of any songbird species in past 45 years. Much of this decline is attributed to habitat loss.



Habitat



Diet



Federally
Threatened

Golden-winged Warbler Range Map



* Range map based on potential range.

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)

- Retain and encourage open woodland habitat with a mosaic of grassy openings
- Mow in irregular patches to reduce woody growth while promoting a patchy woody vegetative structure
- Use controlled burning to suppress shrubs
- Reduce grazing intensity prior to mid-July
- Apply herbicides that selectively target woody plants
- Reduce pesticide use, to ensure viable food supply
- Selective harvesting of trees which aims to promote a patchy, heterogeneous environment.

Co-benefiting Species: The BMPs listed for this species may also benefit Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin and Red-headed Woodpecker.

Manitoba Species at Risk

Golden-winged Warbler

Description

The Golden-winged Warbler is a small (11 cm long), silver and white warbler that is known for having bright yellow patches on its wings and forehead. It is the only warbler with both a yellow patch on its wing and a black throat (grey in females).

Habitat

Recent studies have discovered that although Golden-winged Warblers breed in shrubby, tangled thickets after fledging the families move to mature forest habitats.

Threats

Primary threats identified for the Golden-winged Warbler include the loss of habitat due to wide-scale maturation of young forests and conversion to crop land, hybridization and competition with the closely related Blue-winged Warbler, and accidental mortality from collisions with artificial structures.

Outlook

It is believed that with proper management, specifically the protection of vital habitat, the future of the Golden-winged Warbler in Manitoba is bright. Further investigation into breeding habitat requirements, and levels of hybridization and parasitism, are required to fully understand the extent to which these factors threaten the species.

Producer Benefits

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment process, enabling farm managers to develop an action plan to address agri-environmental assets and risks in their operation. Completion of an EFP may qualify you for funding to implement BMPs on your land. For more information or to register, contact your local Manitoba Agriculture office.

Beyond the species benefits, BMPs can help your operation through:

- Access to on-farm programs and incentives
- Meet emerging market demands for sustainable sourcing
- Increased agricultural sustainability
- Greater resilience to events such as insect outbreaks, floods and droughts
- Better pest control and management
- Improved water quality, quantity and erosion control
- Improved pasture and forage

For more information regarding beneficial management practices on your land, please contact Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation or the organizations listed below.

FUN FACT

Golden-winged Warbler parents may use trickery to protect their offspring. They have been seen carrying food away from their nests, possibly as a decoy to trick potential predators.

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

www.mhhc.mb.ca

Conservation Data Centre

www.manitoba.ca/sd/cdc

Manitoba Agriculture

www.manitoba.ca/agriculture

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

