

# GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

*Vermivora chrysoptera*



## Physical characteristics



The golden-winged warbler is a predominantly grey bird with patches of yellow on the head and wings. While males and females share a similar appearance, the males can be distinguished by their darker throats and eye patches. This species crossbreeds with the blue-winged warbler, which can make it difficult to differentiate between the two.

## Diet



The golden-winged warbler's diet consists mainly of insects found on the ground, such as certain moth species (including their larvae) and spiders.



## Habitat



This bird's habitat consists of a mosaic of herbaceous openings, shrubs, and trees that borders a forest. It likes to nest on or near the ground, often at the base of a small shrub.

## Periods of vulnerability



- The nesting period extends from mid-May to early August.
- This species can be found in Quebec from May to late September.



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## Threats



- Significant habitat loss caused by the disappearance of shrubland due to reforestation and the intensification of agricultural activities and urbanization.
- Increased mortality rate due to the risk of ingesting pesticide-contaminated prey.
- Declining populations due to hybridization and competition with blue-winged warblers.



## Sustainable practices

- Create or maintain succession environments: areas with shrubs, herbaceous plants, and trees that could potentially be inhabited by golden-winged warblers.
- Reduce grazing of the herbaceous layer by cattle or white-tailed deer to protect nestlings, since this species nests on the ground.
- Control invasive species such as buckthorn and reeds wherever possible to preserve the herbaceous layer required for nesting.
- Avoid performing agricultural or forestry work during the nesting period.

- As of 2023, **threatened** species listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*
- Recovery strategy: [wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/virtual\\_sara/files/plans/Rs-GoldenWingedWarbler-v00-2016Aug05-Eng.pdf](https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/virtual_sara/files/plans/Rs-GoldenWingedWarbler-v00-2016Aug05-Eng.pdf)

## Sources

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). (2006). *COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Golden-Winged Warbler (Vermivora chrysoptera) in Canada*. [publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/CW69-14-480-2006E.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/CW69-14-480-2006E.pdf)

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