

Golden-winged Warbler

Vermivora chrysoptera



Photo: Brandon Holden



Photo: W. Peckover



PROVINCIAL STATUS

Threatened

DESCRIPTION

- sparrow-sized perching bird
- bright yellow front cap
- unstreaked gray back and underside
- black throat and eye patch
- bright yellow wing patch
- female: similar to male but duller, with greenish yellow cap and lacking black throat

VOCALIZATION

- buzzy note followed by three on a lower pitch: *bee-bz-bz-bz*

PREFERRED HABITAT

- forest edge

MIGRATION

Spring arrival: mid-May
Fall departure: late August

WINTERING GROUNDS

- Central America, Columbia and Venezuela

LOCAL POPULATION

- uncommon and declining
- nests throughout Renfrew County in suitable habitat but in low numbers

THREATS

- hybridization with Blue-winged Warbler
- urban lights and obstructions
- habitat destruction and alteration
- brood parasites: Brown-headed Cowbirds lays eggs in the warbler nest

NICHE INFORMATION

- eats small insects, caterpillars, spiders
- eaten by small hawks, shrikes, raccoons
- active in daytime
- lives in brushy edge or deciduous forest openings
- nests in grass clump or against tree

WHAT WE CAN DO

- turn off lights in tall buildings during migration
- prevent forest fragmentation

