

Species: Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)  
Global Rank: G4  
State Rank: S4B  
State Wildlife Action Plan: Immediate Concern Species  
Climate Change Vulnerability Index: Not Vulnerable/Increase Likely  
Confidence: Moderate

Habitat:

Golden-winged warblers typically breed in shrubby, early successional habitats such as overgrown farmland, power cuts, and open swampy forests. They may also be found in areas of regrowth after timber cuts and forests damaged by gypsy moths (Brauning 1992; McWilliams and Brauning 2000).

Current Threats:

Population declines have been attributed to competition and hybridization between blue-winged warblers, nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds, reforestation of previously cleared lands, and conversion of early-successional habitats to development (McWilliams and Brauning 2000; NatureServe 2010). Loss of wintering habitat is also listed as a reason for species decline (Confer 1992).

Main Factors Contributing to Vulnerability Rank:

It is uncertain how golden-winged warblers may respond to predicted land use impacts designed to mitigate against climate change since some activities could potentially benefit the species by creating early successional habitat while other activities may harm the species (e.g., incidental death caused by wind turbines). However, despite the uncertainty of climate change mitigation effects, the CCVI rank is Not Vulnerable/Increase Likely. Available evidence suggests that abundance and/or range extent within Pennsylvania is likely to increase by 2050. However, additional stressors that may affect the species are not considered in the CCVI and should also be evaluated when planning conservation related actions.

References:

Brauning, D.W. 1992. Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA.

Confer, J.L. 1992. Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from The Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/020>.

McWilliams, G.M. and D.W. Brauning. 2000. The Birds of Pennsylvania. Comstock Publ. Assoc., Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY.

NatureServe. 2010. NatureServe Central Databases. Arlington, Virginia. USA.