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JUNE: GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*VERMIVORA CHRYSOPTERA*)

This songbird actually benefitted from widespread clearcutting in the 1800s and early 1900s. A bird of young or wet shrubby habitat with scattered trees, the golden-winged warbler began to decline as young forests and thickets aged. Human development in areas with shrub habitat greatly reduced the species in southern Wisconsin, and hybridization with blue-winged warblers is also a key issue, especially as blue-winged warblers shift their ranges north. Most nesting golden-winged warbler populations in the state currently occupy the aspen and alder thickets of northern Wisconsin.

- Wisconsin is home to over 20% of the world's nesting golden-winged warblers, meaning we have high "stewardship responsibility" for this species.
- The [Young Forest Initiative](#), which seeks to manage young forest habitat for plants and wildlife, is working to improve conditions for golden-winged warblers and other birds such as rose-breasted grosbeak, brown thrasher, and American woodcock.
- Recent research has shown Golden-wingeds also use older forest habitats in proximity to breeding areas, suggesting a mosaic of habitat types may best serve this species.
- On their wintering sites in Central and South America, these warblers occupy forest canopies, preferably near open habitat. Montane forest may also be an important habitat.