

## Conservation and Status of Golden-winged Warblers in the Land Between

### 4 Sub-projects:

Golden-winged Warblers are a priority species for conservation within BCR 12; the Boreal Hardwood Transition Zone. They have a preferred habitat of abandoned fields and pastures grown to saplings that are dry, however will also use secondary forest areas. Recently they have been known to take refuge in alder thickets.

Golden-winged Warblers are quickly declining due to hybridization with the Blue-winged Warbler and likely because of a lack of available habitat.

Within the Land Between, GWWA key habitats are highly available, however the quantity, location, quality and finally the use/occupation of sites are unknown. Furthermore the larger distribution of GWWA across the Land Between and in relation to these habitats has not been evaluated.

Research and mapping of GWWA distribution and habitat patches in the Land Between will help to uncover and assess habitat and status of GWWA, as well this relationship and will lead to an understanding of population viability and will help to highlight management options.

Key research question(s):

**\*\*Each project may be restricted to a set of questions (questions/projects are suggested in a tiered/stepped order), or to a geographic area, wherein all the questions may be researched:**

#### **Project/Questions A**

What are the habitat requirements (social, biological and physical) of GWWA?

What areas in the County/Land Between meet these requirements?

#### **Project/Questions B**

Of the candidate habitat sites, what areas within the Land Between/Counties are utilized by GWWA/essential habitats?

What is the distribution of GWWA across the area/or the Land Between?

#### **Project/Questions C**

What are the threats to GWWA in the area?

What is the historical population trend for GWWA in these areas?

How viable is the population of GWWA at the site/areas/region studied?

#### **Project/Questions D**

Given the biological, social and physical threats and characteristics of the species, what management techniques and conservation measures are recommended to conserve the species?

Benefits to the community:

- The results of this project will help to characterize the quality and significance of natural features and areas within the Land Between.
- The results will allow the assignment of appropriate management techniques and stewardship options for communities and landowners in the area.
- The project will help to promote appropriate land uses and deter inappropriate development in the area.
- The project will provide for state of the resource reporting within the Land Between and a basis for monitoring ecosystem succession, changes and health.

Benefits to the student/researcher:

- The student will enhance skills in areas of field inventories, species conservation biology, critical thinking and analysis, and finally in areas of landowner and agency contact, coordination, data sharing and partnership development.

- Furthermore multidisciplinary principles, including research, field biology and inventories, GIS mapping and modeling, will support an individual for work in the conservation sector: an area of multi-tasking, and broad applications, wide-ranging skill sets, and understandings.
- The student will benefit from the marketing of results/research to groups across the Land Between, as well as resource agencies such as OMNR, NHIC, Ontario Stewardship, Municipalities and Watershed Councils and educational institutes.

Resources/supplies:

Office space and computer access.

ArcMap 9 GIS software.

Networks and contacts in OMNR and NHIC as well as educational sectors.

Travel budget @ \$0.42/km.

Small stipend if warranted.

Printing costs.

Larger publishing costs.