

Olive Warbler (*Peucedramus taeniatus*)

NMPIF level: Biodiversity Conservation Concern, Level 2 (BC2)

NMPIF assessment score: 14

National PIF status: No special status

New Mexico BCRs: 34

Primary breeding habitat(s): Mixed Conifer Forest, Ponderosa Pine Forest, primarily above 7,000 feet (both habitats in BCR 34 only)

Summary of Concern

Olive Warbler is a coniferous forest species of highland Mexico and Central America. At the northern limit of its distribution in southern New Mexico, it requires open stands of mature pine and mixed conifer forest.

Associated Species

Greater Pewee (BC2), Hutton's Vireo, Mexican Chickadee (BC2), Pygmy Nuthatch (SC2), Western Bluebird (SC2), Yellow-rumped Warbler, Grace's Warbler (SC1), Red-faced Warbler (SC1), Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red Crossbill

Distribution

Olive Warbler is a pine-associated species primarily of highland Central America and Mexico. Its breeding range extends north to east-central Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Populations in the United States and northern Mexico are at least partially migratory, although winter records exist in New Mexico and Arizona.

In New Mexico, Olive Warblers breed across the southern Mogollon Rim and associated isolated mountains, from the Mogollon, Magdalena, and Black ranges south (Lowther and Nosedal 1997, Parmeter et al. 2002).

Ecology and Habitat Requirements

Olive Warbler occupies both pine forest and pine-oak woodlands in Mexico and Central America. In the southwest, the species occurs mostly in ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest which contain a component of oak understory. Nests are located high (30-70 feet) in conifers and far from the trunk, in the terminal needles of pine or fir boughs. A clutch of 3-4 eggs is laid in late May or early June. Olive Warblers forage mostly in pine, occasionally in oaks, and often join large mixed-species flocks (Lowther and Nosedal 1997).

Conservation Status

Species Assessment

DISTRIBUTION	4
THREATS	3
GLOBAL POPULATION SIZE	3
LOCAL POPULATION TREND	3
IMPORTANCE OF NEW MEXICO TO BREEDING	1
COMBINED SCORE	14

Olive Warbler is a Biodiversity Conservation Concern, Level 2 species for New Mexico, with a combined vulnerability score of 14. At the continental level, it receives a high PIF vulnerability score of 4 for its relatively small distributional range.

Population Size

PIF estimates a species population of 2 million, less than 5% of which occurs in the United States. The size of the New Mexico population is unknown. In ponderosa pine habitat in Arizona, density was 5.6 pair/10 ha (Balda 1969).

Population Trend

This species is not sampled by BBS. Little information on population trends in New Mexico or elsewhere is available. NMPIF assigns a score of 3 for local population trend, indicating uncertainty.

Threats

The New Mexico population is limited in size and distribution, but is not considered highly threatened. Major potential threats to Olive Warblers breeding in New Mexico are loss or degradation of breeding habitat due to timber harvesting or catastrophic fire. In Mexico, densities decreased in areas where selective logging removed the largest pines (Lowther and Nosedal 1997).

Management Issues and Recommendations

No special management is needed at this time, beyond maintaining the health of pine and mixed conifer forests in the southern mountains.

NMPIF Recommendations

- Maintain or re-establish open, park-like forests with large pines, using controlled burns or other management techniques as needed.

Species Conservation Objectives

NMPIF Objectives

- Seek to establish monitoring to better assess species status in New Mexico.
- Maintain presence in the Animas Mountains and the southern Mogollon Rim at densities at or exceeding 1 pair/10 km² in suitable habitat.

Sources of Information

Balda, R. P. 1969. Foliage use by birds of the oak-juniper woodland and ponderosa pine forest in southeastern Arizona. *Condor* 71:399-412.

Lowther, P. E., and J. Nosedal. 1997. Olive Warbler (*Peucedramus taeniatus*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 310 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Parmeter, J., B. Neville, and D. Emkalns. 2002. *New Mexico bird finding guide*. New Mexico Ornithological Society, Albuquerque, NM.