

Continentially Important Proposal for Chiapas



*Advancing
Integrated Bird Conservation
in North America*

**NORTH AMERICAN BIRD
CONSERVATION INITIATIVE**

Debbie Hahn
U.S. NABCI Coordinator
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
444 North Capital Street, NW
Suite 725
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-624-8917
Fax: 202-624-7891
dhahn@fishwildlife.org

Golden-winged Warbler



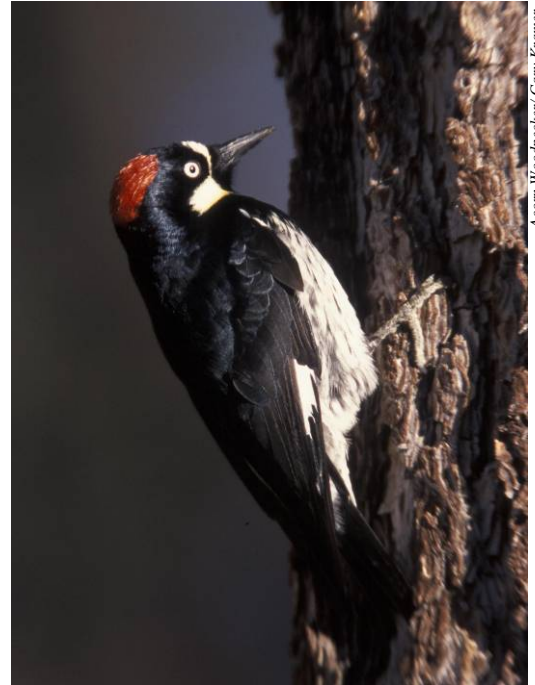
The state of Chiapas in southern Mexico is extremely rich in biological diversity. There are over 500 species of birds, 8,000 species of vascular plants, and 19 major vegetation types in ecosystems such as deciduous forest, cloud forest, tropical rainforest, and mangrove swamp. The diversity of habitats in Chiapas and its geographical position in Mesoamerica result in high concentrations of many migratory bird species.

The area contains the el Triunfo, La Sepultura and El Ocote Biosphere Reserves, which comprise the last remaining habitat for many endemic and endangered birds. These protected areas also provide critical wintering and migratory passage habitat for landbird species of high conservation concern, such as Band-tailed Pigeon, White-throated Swift, Bell's Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, and Painted Bunting.

This proposal connects Chiapas with the Pacific Northwest of the United States and Canada. The conservation of oak habitats is a high priority for partners in both of these regions and is the predominant issue that links them. In the Pacific Northwest, oak habitats are threatened by rapid development, timber harvest, fire suppression, and exotic plant encroachment. In Mexico, these habitats are being lost and degraded by firewood consumption, slash and burn

agriculture, and pine replanting programs. Both areas have a predominance of privately and communally owned land and, therefore, must approach conservation with an emphasis on education and outreach and the development of products to facilitate social learning. Landbird species connecting these two areas include Black-throated Gray Warbler, Acorn Woodpecker, Lewis' Woodpecker, and Western Bluebird.

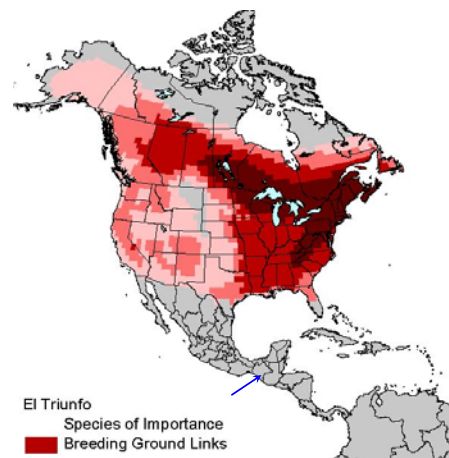
In the U.S. and Canada, the proposal describes conservation actions projected over the next five years in the Pacific Northwest to continue the international collaborative program for the conservation of oak-associated birds and their habitats. The Mexican portion of the proposal will focus activities in the Pacific Coastal Plain, Sierra Madre, Central Depression, and Central Plateau regions of Chiapas. These regions encompass a high proportion of the protected areas and Important Bird Areas of Chiapas.



Acorn Woodpecker/ Gary Kramer

The estimated budget for the entire proposal is US\$25 million over five years. Activities include:

- Establish and manage a network of sites, landscapes, and biological corridors for the conservation of healthy bird populations.
- Develop and implement best practices for forestry, agriculture, fisheries and tourism that contribute to the effective management of sites and landscapes.
- Public policy work to ensure inclusion of habitat considerations in development and sector plans.
- Promote local participation and social involvement in conservation of birds and their habitats.
- Define population goals and identify priority species for tri-national collaboration.
- Consolidate the Chiapas regional alliance.
- Develop geographic information systems.
- Develop bird monitoring programs.



Breeding ground links for priority birds of Chiapas