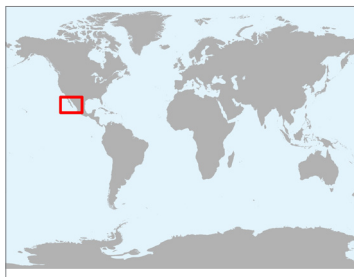




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Geographical range

Species of the Day: Belding's Yellowthroat

Belding's Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis beldingi*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This attractively marked warbler is restricted to a small and fragmented area of Baja California, Mexico, where it may number no more than a few thousand individuals.

The freshwater habitats occupied by Belding's Yellowthroat are under threat from human activities, including burning, reed-cutting, drainage for agriculture and cattle-ranching, fire and over-extraction of water. Recent surveys have found the species to occur at more sites than previously thought, but its tiny range and small, fragmented population make it vulnerable to any extreme events, such as hurricanes.

Part of the species' habitat falls within the Estero de San José del Cabo Ecological Reserve, a designated Ramsar site, where various conservation efforts are underway. Recommended conservation measures for this species include further surveys, genetic studies, greater habitat protection, and the creation of new areas of marshland. Re-introductions have also been suggested, while tourism may be a means by which income can be generated for the protection of key areas of habitat.

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