

GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER



photo by Rick Phillips, wildlife biologist

***TxDOT'S EFFORTS TO AVOID IMPACTS
TO THIS ENDANGERED SONGBIRD***



The Planning Process

What is TxDOT doing to help preserve these birds?

TxDOT efforts reduce harmful impacts to birds and their habitats. We take extra steps to protect the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. In fact, TxDOT follows a federal law providing a framework to protect endangered species when possible. TxDOT's efforts have helped bring back the population of endangered golden-cheeked warblers.

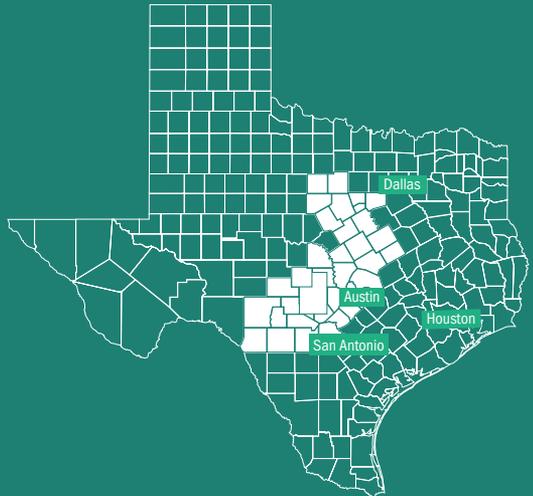
Some TxDOT efforts include:

- Avoiding clearing plants, trees and grass that could be potential habitat.
- Limiting construction during nesting season (March-September).
- Studying areas of land for three years to look for warblers and potential habitat areas – this is called a survey! Surveys are conducted by professional biologists.

Distribution of the Golden-cheeked Warbler

Endangered Species

The golden-cheeked warbler was first listed as an endangered species in 1990. Historically, many woodlands where the warblers nested were cleared to grow crops or grass for grazing. Some were even flooded when large reservoirs were built in the Hill Country. As cities in Texas continue to grow, this bird's habitat is reduced to make room for more houses and roads. We must look out for this species before we lose it forever.



Friends of a Feather Flock Together

Spotting a Golden-cheeked Warbler:

- 4.5 to 5 inches in length.
- Males have a bright yellow face with black throat and cap and a black stripe through the eyes. The belly of the bird is white with black streaks on the sides.
- Females have less vivid coloring.



Courtesy of Gil Eckrich, www.wildflower.org

What do Warblers Eat?

These birds like to eat insects and spiders found on the leaves and bark of trees. They especially enjoy caterpillars, beetles, ants, walking sticks, moths and small cicadas.

Where do they Nest?

There are over 360 species of nesting birds in Texas. The golden-cheeked warbler nests only in our state. They live in Ashe juniper (cedar) and oak trees near steep slopes and canyons. Female warblers decide where to build the nest, and they usually lay three to four eggs each year. Warblers need strips of bark from old Ashe juniper trees to build their homes. They also use spider webs, moss, leaves and grass to make their nests.





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About Us

TxDOT does more than just build roads and highways. We have an environmental responsibility to protect wildlife and its habitat when possible. While losing habitat is unavoidable with some projects, TxDOT actively seeks to avoid, compensate for and reduce such losses. To keep wildlife from becoming extinct, TxDOT is committed to doing its part. We will continue to balance the needs of endangered birds with transportation needs in the state.

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