

**2020 Golden-cheeked Warbler Summary**  
**Westcave Preserve**  
**Travis County, Texas**

**Methods**

Territory mapping surveys for Golden-cheeked Warblers (hereafter, GCWA) were performed by avian researcher, Dawn Houston (Federal permit for GCWA surveys: TE42737A), Westcave Preserve conservation staff, Traci Foulkes and Amber Gosselin and LCRA Senior Environmental Coordinator, Jennifer Leeper (Federal permit for GCWA surveys: TE800900-0). Protocol was followed as described in Bibby et. al. 2000. All surveys were completed within the GCWA survey season, 15 March to 1 June, adhering to USFWS survey guidelines. Fifteen site visits were completed to designate GCWA territories and determine nest success. In addition, all incidental observations from conservation staff were included to supplement survey data. All areas of the preserve were surveyed with an emphasis placed on canyon slopes and adjacent woodlands in the uplands area. All GCWA detections were recorded and corresponding behavior was noted. In conjunction with territory mapping, the preserve began collaborating with the City of Austin in 2017 in adherence to the long-term monitoring plan to obtain the most accurate estimate of return rates, dispersal and survival of GCWAs on the Balcones Canyonland Preserve by color banding territorial males. Due to COVID-19 banding efforts were halted at Westcave for the 2020 survey season. Resighting efforts continued for prior GCWAs that were banded from 2017-2019 to confirm banding status, color combinations and geographical positioning on a weekly basis.

**Results**

**Observations:** Approximately sixty-one observations were recorded during 15 site visits and incidental observations from Westcave Preserve staff from 15 March to 24 May 2020. Additional data were collected with each observation including, date/time of detection, type of observation, sex and coordinates. Survey efforts hours totaled approximately 39 hours.

| Site visit Date | March 15 <sup>th</sup> | March 24 <sup>th</sup> | April 1 <sup>st</sup> | April 8 <sup>th</sup> | April 14 <sup>th</sup> | April 16 <sup>th</sup> | April 23 <sup>rd</sup> | May 1 <sup>st</sup> | May 6 <sup>th</sup> | May 9 <sup>th</sup> | May 13 <sup>th</sup> | May 16 <sup>th</sup> | May 21 <sup>st</sup> | May 24 <sup>th</sup> |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| # of Detections | 4                      | 8                      | 1                     | 4                     | 6                      | 5                      | 6                      | 5                   | 4                   | 1                   | 1                    | 3                    | 2                    | 5                    |

**Number of detections per site visit**

**Territories:** Three territories were established within the preserve during the 2020 breeding season. Of the three territories one was successful with 4 hatch years observed on May 21 and May 25<sup>th</sup>. This territory was represented by a male who was banded in 2019 (pink/pink:red/silver). All territories were similar in size and shape to 2019 survey season. An additional banded bird was a detected one time but surveyors could not identify color combinations.