

Home > News > **Keep Texas Wild: Protect Golden-cheeked Warbler**

Keep Texas Wild: Protect Golden-cheeked Warbler

🕒 July 13, 2015 📁 News, Wildlife

Joan Marshall, Travis Audubon Society:



Golden Cheeked Warbler by Steve Maslowski

oak trees needed to raise their young. Birders from around the world travel to the area, which is a migratory route for the golden-cheeked warbler, which arrives each March and departs in late summer for Mexico.

What's the future for this endangered bird? Uncertain. Much of this songbird's decline is due to habitat fragmentation. Now come organizations backed by hard-driving, money-hungry interests. Travis Audubon flatly rejects any contention that the species number is declining.

The petition claims that the golden-cheeked warbler population is much larger than previous estimates. The studies that petitioners believe are superior to previous studies—and should have shown that the model from which the estimate is derived is seriously flawed.

In fact, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service just completed a review of the status of the golden-cheeked warbler by a recovery team of independent experts, and found no grounds to de-list the species. The golden-cheeked warbler continues to be destroyed. The petitioners themselves acknowledge that the golden-cheeked warbler was listed, more than 100,000 acres of their Hill Country habitat have been destroyed. What would happen if the restrictions were lifted?

Petitioners promise a rosy future if private landowners can manage their lands properly. But landowners merely want what's best for their lands. For many landowners this is the case. The golden-cheeked warbler is a natural ecology of the region.

In particular, the myth and attitude toward the ashe juniper tree is alarming. The ashe juniper is nesting material for the golden-cheeked warbler, but also for providing food for other species as well.

Yet many Texas landowners treat ashe juniper as a blight. Cattle don't eat it. In the face of such misinformation, what are the prospects for the survival of our golden-cheeked warblers and the many other species that depend on them?

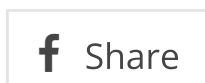
So do we risk losing a species unique to Central Texas? This is not a liberal issue. It's about remembering that nothing in nature stands alone.

Challenges like this will only escalate as our open spaces vanish. We need a TravisAudubon.org if you want to know what leadership roles are needed.

Wild birds need human advocates. They need you. Birds sing, but without y together we can make a profound difference.

Joan Marshall is executive director of the Travis Audubon Society, which ma the golden-cheeked warbler and other bird species.

Please Share This



Related Articles
