



HORIZON'S HOMESCHOOL



PART 1: Golden-Cheeked Warbler

LESSON

What is a golden-cheeked warbler?

- The golden-cheeked warbler is a small songbird approximately 5 inches long with a wingspan of 8 inches
- Its scientific name is *Setophaga chrysoparia*
- They eat insects and spiders found on the leaves and bark of trees
- They use long strips of cedar bark and spider webs to build their nests



What does the golden-cheeked warbler sound like?

Male (boy) golden-cheeked warblers can be heard chirping or singing a "song" to attract female (girl) birds. Please watch the provided video to hear the golden-cheeked warbler sing his song. *Can you identify a golden-cheeked warbler by his song?*



Where does the golden-cheeked warbler live?

Typical breeding and nesting habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler in central Texas consists of juniper-oak woodlands in the Hill Country. They come to Texas between March and June and leave in July to spend their winters in Mexico and Central America.

Why is the golden-cheeked warbler important?

- Golden-cheeked warblers have been an endangered species since 1990. That means they are at risk of becoming extinct. They are endangered because a lot of the habitat they live in has been cleared to accommodate construction in central Texas, which

includes building houses, roads, and stores. Some of their habitat has also been cleared to grow crops for people to eat.

- Protecting endangered species is called *conservation*. The conservation of endangered species is important because when we protect the natural habitat of wildlife, we enrich our planet. A well-balanced ecosystem gives us clean air to breathe, a healthy water system to support marine life (like fish), and suitable land for farming.

How is Horizon Environmental involved?

The trained biologists who work at Horizon go out and find golden-cheeked warbler habitat and figure out if the birds are using it. Horizon works with land developers to try to preserve as much occupied golden-cheeked warbler habitat as possible, so we can all live together in peace.



How can *you* get involved?

The Balcones Canyonlands is a 27,500-acre nature refuge that was established in 1992 to protect the nesting habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler. It is located about 45 minutes northwest of Austin. You can visit the refuge and enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking and bird watching – and maybe even hear or see a golden-cheeked warbler! Opportunities are also available to volunteer to help protect and improve the refuge.



How much did *you* learn? Take the quiz to see!

To learn more about what we do at Horizon, please visit [our Services page](#). Thanks for joining us!

