



Meridian State Park

# GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER *Dendroica chrysoparia*



The golden-cheeked warbler is an endangered species that can be seen at Meridian State Park certain times of the year.



## **GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER** *Dendroica chrysoparia*

The golden-cheeked warbler is a small, migratory songbird. It stays in Mexico in fall and winter and arrives in Central Texas in March to build its nest and raise young.

Their preferred nesting habitat consists of oak woodlands containing mature Ashe junipers and mixed hardwood trees. These areas in the Hill Country, such as Meridian State Park, are the only places in the world where these birds nest. They use shreds of bark from the Ashe junipers and weave them together with spider webs to build their nests.

These warblers eat mostly insects. At the beginning of mating season the male picks a territory and claims it by calling out to all other birds in the area. He then defends his territory against any other male intruders. The female does most of the work building the cup-shaped nest and sitting on the eggs.

The main reason the golden-cheeked warbler is listed as endangered is because of habitat loss and fragmentation from building houses and clearing land for cattle grazing. Supporting and visiting places like Meridian State Park helps to protect habitat for these special birds!