

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**USFWS MINIMUM PROCEDURES**

**MINIMUM PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING THE PRESENCE/ABSENCE OF  
GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLERS AND BLACK-CAPPED VIREOS**

Last updated 04/3/02

1. Endangered Species Permits must be obtained from FWS - Region 2 Office in Albuquerque (Stephanie Weagley 505/248-6663 or email FW2\_TE\_Permits@fws.gov) prior to work in occupied endangered species habitat. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department also requires persons working on endangered species to obtain a permit (512/389-4800). If there is a question about whether a permit is needed for conducting work in endangered species habitat, please call the Austin U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office at 512/490-0057.
2. The survey seasons are as follows:
  - a. Black-capped vireo - April 10 to July 1\* and
  - b. Golden-cheeked warbler - March 15 to May 15.\* A minimum of 50% of the surveys for the BCV must be conducted between April 10 and May 31
3. We recommend survey times start 30 minutes before sunrise. **All** surveys must be completed by one o'clock in the afternoon.
4. A minimum of five visits with no more than 1 visit within any 5-day period.
5. Total survey time should be a minimum of 4 hours per 100 acres of habitat per visit (habitat is defined in the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service's "Guidance Concerning Review of Endangered Species Habitat", Revised April 1994).
6. Surveys should be conducted on days when weather conditions are suitable for the detection of bird singing. Robbins (1981) makes recommendations for acceptable limits of weather conditions and optimal conditions for increasing detection. Robbins (1981) recommends a wind speed of 12 mph as a generally acceptable maximum for satisfactory count results.
7. A minimum of 1 hour per visit is need regardless of the size of the site.
8. Taped or play back recordings of BCV or GCW or screech owl calls may be used only after the above methodology (5 visits, 4 hours/visit) have been exhausted and no birds have been located. Tapes must be used judiciously to avoid behavioral impacts. Tapes must be used to verify negative results (absence of target birds).
9. Reports must include date and year, weather (e.g., wind speed, temperature, precipitation), start and end time, number of birds heard or observed (to include absence of birds from a site), site name, whether tapes were used and observers' name(s). Two maps (7.5 min quad maps only) must be included in the report. One map of the site with location of the project area and the survey routes and another map with the bird detections as described by the International Bird Census Committee (Committee) (1970). Descriptions of habitats found on the site must also be included in the report. If available, also include GPS location information. Data collected in lat long (decimal degrees), NAD 83 is preferred. If collected in an alternate coordinate system, please report the coordinate system and datum the information was collected in. Also, please report the GPS unit model and its accuracy, and if any real time correction or post processing was done.

The above methodology is limited to determining the presence/absence of golden-cheeked warblers and black-capped vireos. It does not provide sufficient data to determine bird densities or territories. The results of surveys must be reported (as described above) to the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service in the annual permit report whether or not the survey detected any target species.

If bird densities or territorial mapping is needed then the methodology described by the Committee (1970) should be followed. The following exceptions apply: (1) the entire project area will be censused, not a sample plot; (2) all detections on the edge of the project area will be recorded even if more than half of the territory is off the project area; (3) the survey season is as described above; and (4) the time spent per visit and the number of visits should be sufficient to document the densities of the target species and suspected territories in the project area. Reports should include the information discussed above (for presence/absence reports) as well as the locations of all bird detections (by sex and age if identifiable), nests (if incidentally), contemporaneous detections, etc. registered on 7.5 min quad maps (or larger scale) as established by the Committee. Actual locations should be mapped rather than indicating territories or areas of use. Suspected territories could be mapped in addition to actual locations. Descriptions of habitats found on the site, whether or not birds were located in it, must also be included in the report. If available, you may include this information in the same format described in the first paragraph of this section.

10. Exceptions to this methodology may be allowed only through coordination with and approval of the Austin

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office.

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#### LITERATURE CITED

- International Bird Census Committee. 1970. An International standard for a mapping method in bird census work recommended by the International Bird Census Committee. *Audubon Field Notes*. 24(6): 722-726.
- Robbins, C.S. 1981. Bird activity levels related to weather. Pp. 301-310. in C.J. Ralph and J.M Scott (eds.). *Estimating numbers of terrestrial birds*. *Studies in Avian Biology* No. 6. Cooper Ornithological Society. Lawrence, Kansas.