

**Summary of 2013 Golden-cheeked Warbler surveys
at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve**

by Darrell Hutchinson

Thirty-five surveys were conducted between March 12 - June 14 by Darrell Hutchinson and Mitch Robinson for a total of 181 survey hours (Figure 1).

Five banded and two unbanded males occupied a total of seven territories inside and on the edge of the Wild Basin Preserve boundary (Figure 2). Four color-banded males returned for the third consecutive year. NB/WH:MV/SI, BK/RD:RD/SI, PI/SI:OR/GR, and BK/BL:YE/SI were banded at Wild Basin Preserve and adjacent Vireo Preserve in 2011. YE/SI:OR/BL was banded in Wild Basin on April 9, 2013. PI/SI:OR/GR arrived with its orange band missing, and is now identified as PI/SI:NB/OR. BK/BL:YE/SI was observed with its blue band pinched around its left ankle on April 23. Attempts to recapture it were unsuccessful, although its female mate was banded MV/SI:PI/YE on April 30 in Vireo Preserve.

Three pairs bred successfully, two pairs were unsuccessful, and two males were not observed with mates:

- A nest for PI/SI:NB/OR was located on April 16 and fledged minimum three on May 3.
- No nest was located for NB/WH:MV/SI, but fledged four on approximately May 12.
- The territory for UBWB1 was not well sampled due to private holdings and steep terrain, but an unbanded male was observed with two fledglings on June 7 and 11.
- A nest for BK/BL:YE/SI was located on April 28 and abandoned on May 4. Male was not resighted after April 30. On May 26, female MV/SI:PI/YE was observed copulating with another unbanded male, but no additional nesting behaviors were observed.
- BK/RD:RD/SI was paired, but its nest was not found and presumed predated.
- YE/SI:OR/BL was never observed with a mate.
- The territory for UBWB2 was located principally outside Wild Basin's southern boundary. Male was not observed with a mate.

During the last three years of intensive GCWA surveys, 3 ASY males have returned to occupy their same territories located along Bee Creek. Each has bred successfully in, at least, 2 of the last 3 years. In contrast, a fourth territory, centered along the southern drainage, has been occupied by a different SY male each year. Each of these SY males has failed to breed successfully at Wild Basin, and the males from 2011 and 2012 both relocated to other parts of Balcones Canyonlands Preserve the following year. Apparently suitable space and habitat for another GCWA territory is located along North Hollow, but occupation has been intermittent for reasons unknown.

Surveys were funded by City of Austin Wildlands Conservation Division and conducted according to City of Austin's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve GCWA Demographic Study protocols. For the complete write up on the project see City of Austin, Travis County, U.S. Forest Service. 2012 Annual report: Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*) monitoring program, Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Austin, Texas.

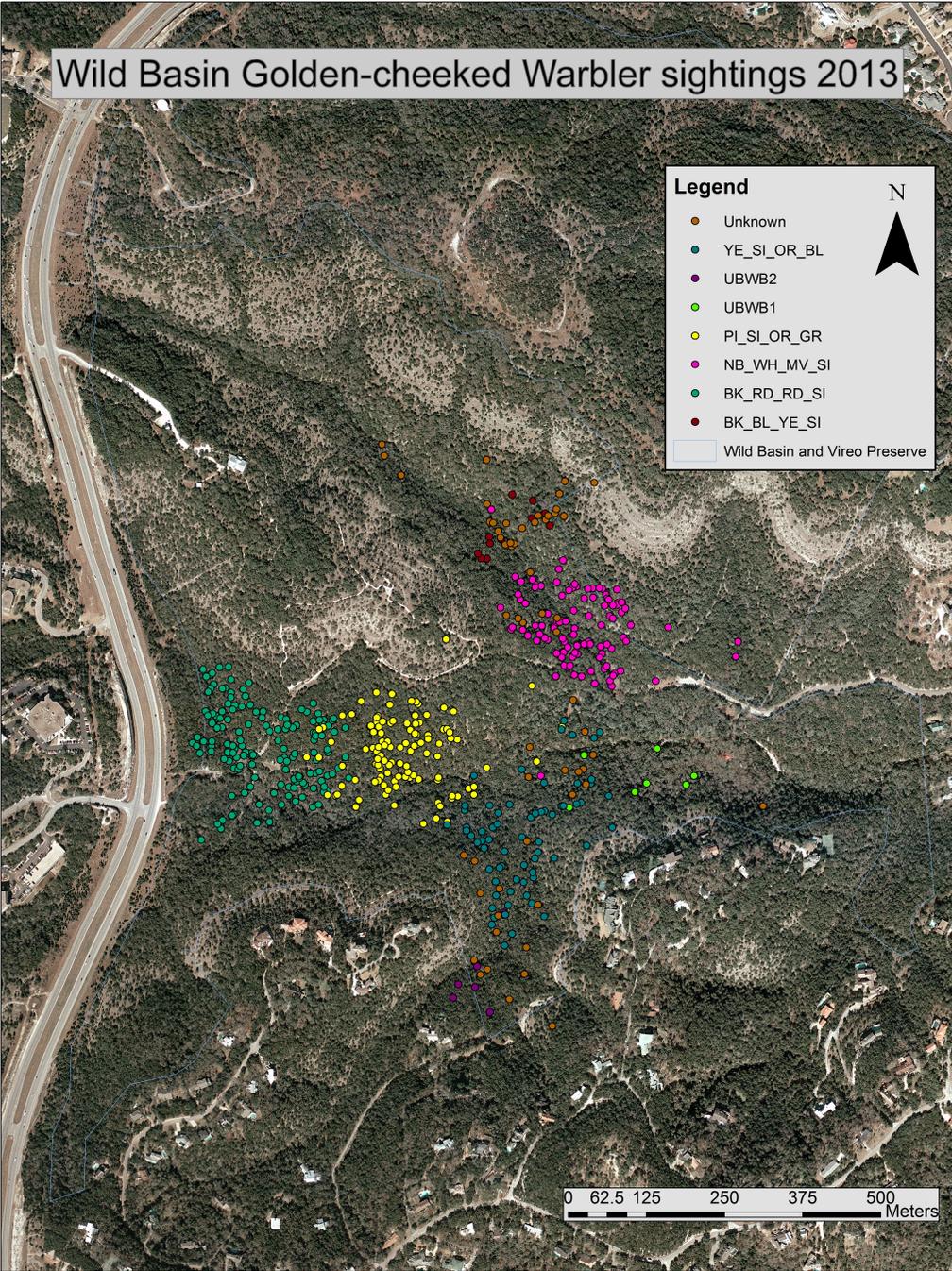


Figure 1: Map of Golden-cheeked Warbler sightings at Wild Basin Preserve

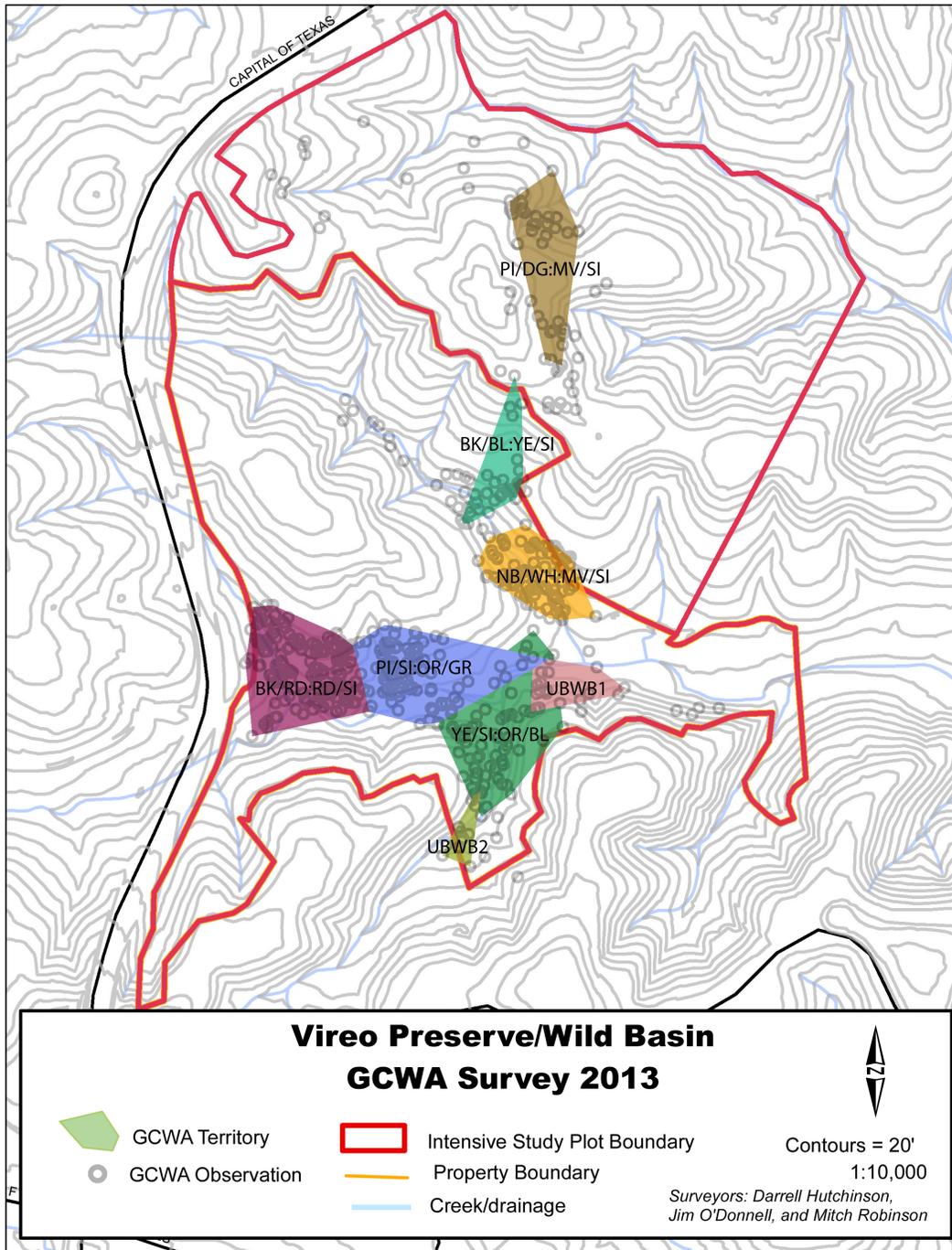


Figure 2: Map Golden-cheeked Warbler sighting at Wild Basin in 2013 Map created by City of Austin, Travis County, U.S. Forest Service. 2012. Annual report: Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*) monitoring program, Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Austin, Texas.