

# Welcome

## Endangered Songbird Destination

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge offers some of the best bird watching and breeding habitat left in Texas for two endangered songbirds—the golden-cheeked warbler and the now recovered black-capped vireo. Both songbirds face a common dilemma. They depend on very specialized habitats to make a living, and those places grow fewer by the day in the wake of development and human activity. That is why this refuge has a critical role to play in both preserving and restoring their homes.

## A Melting Pot for Rarities

When you enter Balcones Canyonlands NWR, you may not realize that these hills carpeted in juniper and hardwood trees fall at the juncture of the Great Plains and the Gulf Coast bioregions. Life at nature's intersections tends to be rich and unique. Add the unusual limestone geology of the Edwards Plateau and it's not surprising to find plants and animals adapted to live here and nowhere else.

## Meeting Your Needs

The refuge's public use areas are open 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset. However, some areas may be temporarily closed to the public to allow for other activities like prescribed burning or hunting. Visitors can learn more about the refuge by stopping by the Refuge Headquarters on FM 1431 or from the Lago Vista Chamber of Commerce. To reach the Refuge Headquarters from Lago Vista, go west on FM 1431 for 5 miles past the intersection with Lohman Ford Road. If you are coming west on FM 1431, the office will be one mile from the intersection with Cow Creek Road. The office is on the north side of the highway.

## Help Us Protect the Refuge

Please help us take care of our Texas Hill Country heritage. To safeguard the endangered wildlife and unique habitats of Balcones Canyonlands NWR, we do not allow camping, fishing, pets, alcoholic beverages, open fires and collecting of plants, animals, fossils or artifacts. The use of electronic devices to call birds is strictly prohibited.

## Friends of Balcones Canyonlands

Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support wildlife and habitat conservation at the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, and in cooperation with the refuge help broaden public awareness, education, and advocacy. To find out how to become a Friend, or to learn more about other volunteer opportunities, contact the refuge or the friends group directly at [www.friendsofbalcones.org](http://www.friendsofbalcones.org).

**Balcones Canyonlands  
National Wildlife Refuge  
Headquarters Office  
Hours: Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**24518 E. FM 1431  
Marble Falls, TX 78654**

**(512) 339-9432**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1-800-344-WILD**

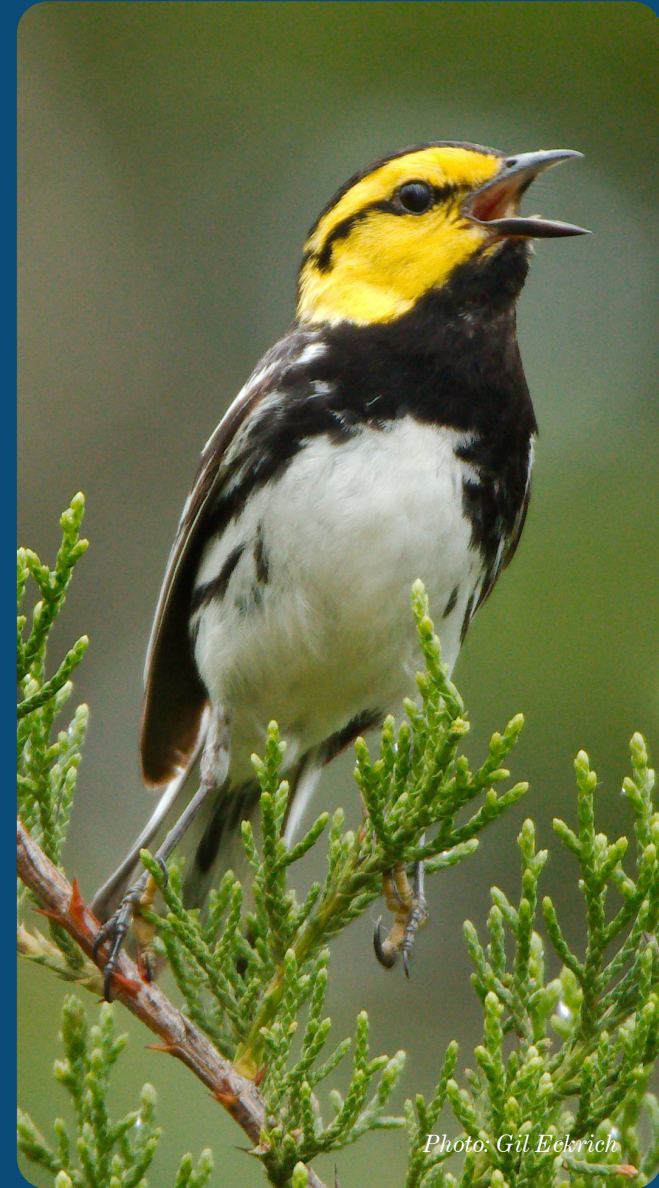
**January 2021**



*Photo: Jim Baines*

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge Trail Map



*Photo: Gil Eckrich*



# THINGS TO DO



## Hiking

With over 10 miles of hiking trails, exploring the refuge can be an easy stroll or challenging hike.



## Wildlife Observation

Whether hiking, driving, or enjoying the view from one of our observation decks, you can get up close to watch wildlife at Balcones Canyonlands NWR.



## Photography

Capture the scenic views, wildflowers, or that elusive black-capped vireo! Commercial photography requires a permit.



## Hunting

The refuge offers hunting by permit for dove, white-tailed deer, turkey, and feral hogs. Call or visit the refuge headquarters for more information.



## Seasonal Activities

Enjoy a variety of educational programming and events offered by staff and volunteers. Follow our calendar of events for more information.



## Volunteering

Balcones Canyonlands NWR relies on volunteers to assist with many tasks. Call or visit the refuge headquarters for volunteer opportunities.

# RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Entry/Exit

Public use areas are open 365 days a year between sunrise and sunset. There are no entrance fees or passes required to visit. Overnight parking, camping, and fires are prohibited.

## Wildlife Observation, Photography, and Hiking

Stay on designated trails and always hike with a partner. Please bring water, sunscreen, hat, bug spray, and appropriate clothing for the weather.

## Pack In/Pack Out

Littering is strictly prohibited. Pack it in and pack it out. Leave the refuge as you found it for others to enjoy.

## Alcohol

Visitors may not possess or be under the influence of alcohol on the refuge. Violators will be prosecuted.

## Respect Wildlife

Disturbing or collecting plants, animals and artifacts is strictly prohibited. The refuge has a no-take policy. Recording wildlife calls and the use of playback tapes are prohibited. Please help keep the wildlife healthy and safe by not feeding or harassing them.

## Permits

Commercial groups (birding and photography) or researchers require special use permits and fees.

## Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on NWRs must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Firearms are prohibited in all buildings. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations.

## Pets

Pets are not permitted on the refuge.

# Trail Information

## Headquarters Trails

24518 E. FM 1431 Marble Falls, TX 78654

Post Oak Trail – Easy, 0.4 mi. on natural path

Pollinator Path – Easy, 0.2 mi. on natural path

## Warbler Vista

21646 ½ E. FM 1431 Lago Vista, TX 78654

Quarry Canyon Trail – Difficult, 0.6 mi. steep rocky trail

Boulder Trail – Difficult, 0.4 mi. rocky trail

Cactus Rocks Trail – Moderate, 1.25 mi. loop on a sometimes rocky trail

Vista Knoll Trail – Moderate, 0.5 mi. loop on a sometimes rocky trail

Ridgeline Trail – Moderate, 1.2 mi. loop on a rocky trail

Sunset Deck – Short paved accessible path from parking to observation deck

## Doeskin Ranch

10645 FM 1174 Bertram, TX 78605

Pond and Prairie Trail – Easy, 0.5 mi. Half of this trail is paved and half is natural

Creek Trail – Easy, 0.6 mi. on natural path

Rimrock Trail – Difficult, 1.6 mi. loop on a natural and rocky path

Shin Oak Trail – Easy, 0.5 mi. loop on natural path

Indiangrass Trail – Moderate, 1.5 mi. trail on a sometimes rocky path

## Shin Oak Observation Deck

FM 1869 Bertram, TX 78605

No bathrooms or trails at this location



