

## Minimum experience requirements to obtain a Recovery Permit for conducting presence/absence surveys for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler

This document provides the recommended format to accompany a completed Form 3-200-55 Federal Fish and Wildlife Application Form - Native Endangered and Threatened Species. This document addresses species specific information as requested in section D(l)(b) of Form 3-200-55 related to the golden-cheeked warbler (GCWA). It does not substitute for submission of resumes, curriculum vitae, references or other required documentation, but rather provides justification for species specific experience. Submitting documentation of experience does not fulfill all permit application requirements or guarantee permit approval. Applicants should also review and complete a Form 3-200-55 for consideration. The following information should be reviewed prior to submitting documentation of experience:

### **Category 1 - Applicants with substantial experience detecting passerines by song.**

This category includes applicants with a strong background in passerine surveys or bird song identification\*; for example, regular or previous participation in breeding bird surveys, point-count surveys, or other similar avian surveys.

**Minimum requirements:** 25 hours of active field survey time\*\* (from sunrise to 1:00 pm, under appropriate weather conditions; five days minimum) searching for GCWA with a permitted biologist. A minimum of 10 detections must have been made over four of the field survey days for GCWA. Sixty percent (15 hours; six detections) of the 25 hours required must have been conducted during the three most recent survey seasons (past three years).

### **Category 2 - Applicants with little or no specific experience in detecting passerines by song.**

This category includes general biologists/ecologists and biologists with specialized training in other animal or bird groups (e.g., reptiles, mammals, shorebirds), but with little or no experience in passerine surveys or bird song identification.

**Minimum requirements:** 50 hours of active field survey time\*\* (from sunrise to 1:00 pm, under appropriate weather conditions; 10 days minimum) searching for GCWA with a permitted biologist. A minimum of 20 detections must have been made over eight of the field survey days for GCWA. Sixty percent (30 hours; 12 detections) of the 50 hours required must have been conducted during the three most recent survey seasons (past three years).

### **Category 3 - Current or previously permitted applicants.**

Current or previously permitted applicants requesting renewal, amendment, or a new permit, should meet the following requirements: minimum of two days (or 10 hours) of active survey time\*\* with positive detections, by song, of GCWA within the five most recent survey seasons.

\* As documented by information submitted with permit application (e.g., resume).

\*\* Field time does not have to be part of an official protocol survey (e.g., visits to known populations on public lands).

