

**Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP)
Updates for McGregor and Westcave Preserves**

**Q3 Report
April – June 2020**

McGregor Preserve

No activity was conducted on the McGregor Preserve during the quarter.

Westcave Preserve Land Management Activities

Westcave completed Phase One of its Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) grant funded decomposed granite trail project. Phase One included completion of the segment from the Ahrns Grove to Leif's bird blind. Construction on Phase Two, which will improve the trail to the historic home site, will be scheduled for completion in either 2021 or 2022.

David Todd, with Texas Legacy, filmed video footage of the grotto as part of a series of interviews conducted with former Westcave staff members.

Research consisted of:

- (1) Westcave participating in The Cornell Lab Global Big Day on May 9, 2020. Twenty-six avian species were observed.
- 2) Golden-cheeked Warbler surveys continued throughout April and May. Three territories were detected and two of the three were confirmed as successful for breeding and nesting.
- (4) The Texas Water Development Board's Groundwater Monitoring Team collected water samples from the spring above the grotto to access geochemistry. Flow rates were also measured.
- (5) Internal water quality tests were conducted monthly at the Grotto and at Hammetts Crossing. Results are reported to LCRA.

Note that starting on March 17, 2020 research programs were postponed due to COVID -19, with the exception of Golden-cheeked Warbler surveys, water quality testing, and dung beetle research.

Preserve maintenance is on-going and includes: trail work, bird blind maintenance and supplemental watering for butterfly gardens.