

The Golden-winged Warbler is a decidedly uncommon breeding bird in western North Carolina and is very difficult to find. One of the best spots for it is at the southern end of the Blue Ridge Parkway near Cherokee. If you are traveling south on the Parkway, look for it off to the right just before you come to the information booth. If you are unsuccessful here, continue to the end of the Parkway and turn left toward Cherokee. Take the first road to the left and cross the Oconalufee River, then make another left. This will put you on Big Cove Road which doubles back under the Parkway. Golden-winged Warblers nested just past the Parkway overpass on Big Cove Road in recent years. If you are traveling from Gathenburg on the Newfound Gap Road (US 441) watch for the terminus of the Parkway and follow these directions from that point. At Cherokee, one can get onto Big Cove Road in the center of town. It is the road that parallels US 441 on the other side of the river. See the accompanying map on reverse.

Another good spot, though less reliable than the one mentioned above, is Deep Creek Campground in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park near Bryson City. Signs beginning in Bryson City will direct you to the campground. Look for the birds on the hillside above the creek about ¼ mile beyond the picnic shelter on the side opposite the campground.

These birds frequent brushy slightly open growth rather than forest. May and June are the best months for finding them. After that, the birds are not singing and are very hard to find.

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