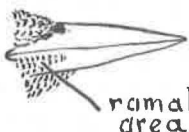


NOTES ON THE COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

By Dr. Charles H. Blake

The juvenile plumaged Yellowthroat is easily recognized: a small warbler, olive-green above and buffy below with rounded, short wings and tail, no white in tail, very narrow buffy wing-bars, short rictal bristles. It is now well known that the wing and tail quills are replaced at the post-juvinal molt. At this molt both sexes acquire the yellow areas of the underparts, and the nape, the black areas on the head. These black areas may be somewhat obscured by gray edgings or be as black as in the breeding plumage. We may safely conclude that a fall Yellowthroat without black on the head is a female.



This summer I noted that some juveniles had the ramal area (see sketch) black rather than brown. There were eight of those while 22 had the area brown. One, here counted as brown, was intermediate. Of these birds, four reappeared late enough for the sex to be checked. Two, recorded with black ramal areas, were males. The other two were females and their ramal areas, before molt, had been recorded as brown. Four birds are too few to prove that the rule is invariable, but here is another point for banders to observe.

The postjuvinal molt of this species occurs mostly in August and seems to be relatively slow.

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Black-headed Gull at nest, in Finland (Photo by Timo Tallgren)