

FIRST RECORD OF THE YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER IN WYOMING

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On 25 May 1983 I made in Laramie, Albany County, the first reported observation in Wyoming of a Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). Laramie is in a grassland basin at 2194 m (7200 ft) elevation and is a treed residential area. Sightings of this bird (Figure 1) were frequent from 25 May 1983 through 27 May 1983.

I obtained the following description with 7x binoculars: yellow throat and upper breast; white abdomen; black streaking over white on sides; black auricular; bottom of white eye stripe touching top of eye; white patches on either side of the neck just posterior to the auricular; gray back without spots; dark gray crown; and white wing bars. Additional notes from color 35mm slides include a straight black bill and pale pink legs and feet.

The bird was foraging mostly in deciduous trees (Plains Cottonwood, *Populus sargentii*, and American Elm, *Ulmus americanus*) in the bud stage, although it did visit nearby Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) trees. Commonly, it gleaned food (presumably insects) from branches and the underside of developing leaves. Between foraging attempts the bird hopped about with occasional short flights to other branches. Observed foraging attempts varied in height from 3 m (10 ft) to 14 m (46 ft). My original notes contain no reference to any vocalizations, nor do I recall any.



Figure 1. Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*), Laramie, Albany Co., Wyoming, 25-27 May 1983. The color 35 mm slide from which this print was made shows bright yellow extending from the chin down to and including the upper breast. A complete description is in the text.

Photo by Craig D. Thompson

NOTES

Table 1. Recent records of the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) in Wyoming and surrounding states.¹

State	Spring Records			Fall Records			Source
	Number	Earliest	Latest	Number	Earliest	Latest	
Colorado	13	3 Apr.	2 Jun.	1	7 Dec.	8 Dec.	Colorado Official Records Committee
Idaho	0	—	—	0	—	—	Charles Trost, Univ. of Idaho
Montana	0	—	—	1	19 Dec. ²	4 Jan.	Faanes 1982
Nebraska	21	11 Apr.	2 Jun.	4	14 Jul.	1 Oct.	Johnsgard 1980
S. Dakota	2	19 Apr.	23 Apr.	0	—	—	Harrell et al. 1978
Utah	1	19 May	19 May	0	—	—	Behle and Perry 1975
Wyoming	1	25 May	27 May	0	—	—	This note

¹Table complete through fall 1984 to best of author's knowledge.

²Reported from late October, but first confirmed 19 Dec. (H. Carlson pers. comm.)

The American Ornithologists' Union (1983) describes the Yellow-throated Warbler as accidental north to Montana and present in migration "rarely west to Colorado and New Mexico, casually to southern Arizona and California." Table 1 is a summary of known records in Wyoming and the surrounding states. The obvious and expected trend is a greater number of observations in the area to the south and east, which is closest to the species' normal range. The relatively high number of Colorado observations may be partially attributed to high observer density, as most Colorado observations are along the Front Range. Another obvious trend is that most observations (86%) are in the spring. Most unusual is the very late (late October 1981 through 4 January 1982) and northwesterly observation in Billings, Montana.

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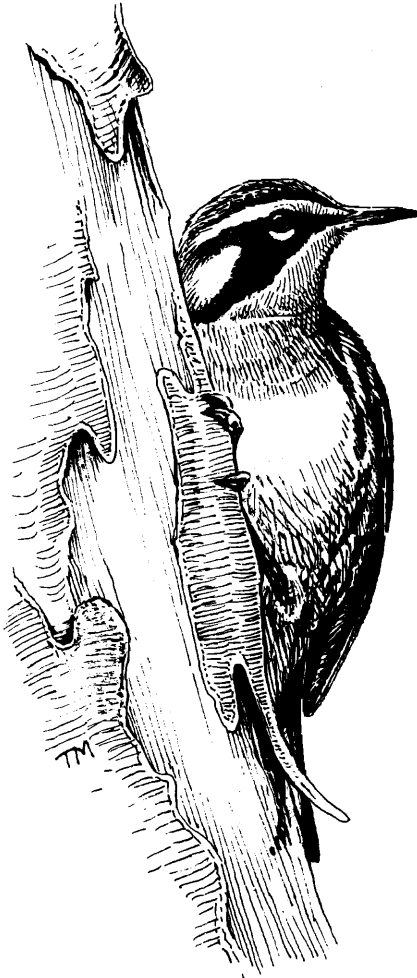
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Sketch by Tim Manolis