


Yellow-throated Warbler
 Zion National Park Christmas Bird Count
 28 January 2002
 ca. 130 PM

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While counting birds in the vicinity of the Grotto Picnic Area/Trailhead I walked along the Virgin River on the south side, up canyon to the first obvious turn in the road, then walked north along a small channel filled with brush towards the river. There were some large cottonwoods to my right as I was walking. While counting some white-crowned sparrows I heard an unfamiliar chip note that was clearly not that of a Yellow-rumped warbler, which would be the only likely warbler in winter. I turned and saw the bird in a cottonwood about 30-40 feet away, on the tip of a bare branch. The bird stayed there for long enough (30-45 seconds?) to be carefully studied. It seemed quite curious, and may have been attracted by my earlier pishing. It was roughly the size of a Audubon's yellow-rumped, but differed in many respects. The throat and upper breast were a brilliant lemon-yellow. The head had a distinct white supercilium, a distinct $\frac{1}{2}$ white eye-ring below the eye, and a triangular black patch behind the eye with an extension through the eye and to the base of the bill. A distinct white "ear-patch" directly behind the thickest part of the black patch was very obvious. The crown was gray, the back gray with a few faint tan/pale brown streaks on the lower back and tertials. The flanks had heavy streaking, including a heavy blackish zig-zag streak, with some faint black or tan streaks above and below. The belly was white. There were two distinct white wing bars. The vent and undertail coverts were white. The underside of the tail was white, and the upper side of the tail was gray. When the bird flew there were no obvious white tail spots as in yellow-rumped. Based on the coloring (faint brown), I thought it was possibly a first-fall female.

I have previous experience with this bird, having seen many individuals in the eastern US, Texas and Belize. Conditions were perfect, with full sun on the bird, with me facing away from the sun. I was using 10x42 Swarovski SLC's. I am 100% positive about this id.

Below I have organized notes and sketches:

Rough field sketch (xerox attached)
 1st Draft for CBC compiler (with Bob Showler)
 2nd cleaner drawing (original attached)
 Original scribbled field notes (xerox attached)

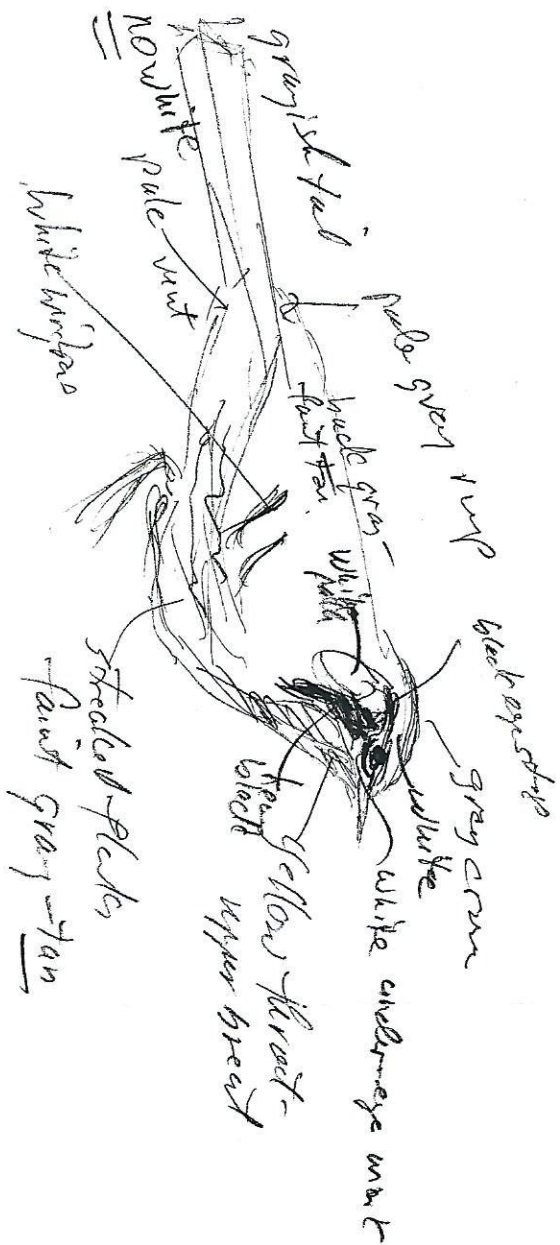
2003-08

John S
210W CBC
1/28/2002

Yellow-throated Warbler
1st scribbled field notes

~~BEET~~ IIII 1 WCSPIII
 B RER IIII ~~ADSI~~ III
~~ROKI~~ - IIII TOSD 1
 Cragan J IIII
~~CAAT~~ II *
 PWC-SJ II *YWA!!
 WWR-1 / yahos!!
~~SOSP~~ - II
 MOETP - III V GBTE I
 NOFL - I Dodo - 1 ♀
 HAWD - I ~~EXSH~~ IIII III
 COIRA II
 * lemon yellow thr + breast
 black eye-stripe
 white supercilium
 black behind eye - setting
 off white "ear patch"
 grey back - no streaking
 white below tail
 grey - rump
 2 white wing bars
 1 white eye-ring below eye
 streaked flanks - ~~sun brown~~
 1/28/2002 - 210W

1st Sketch



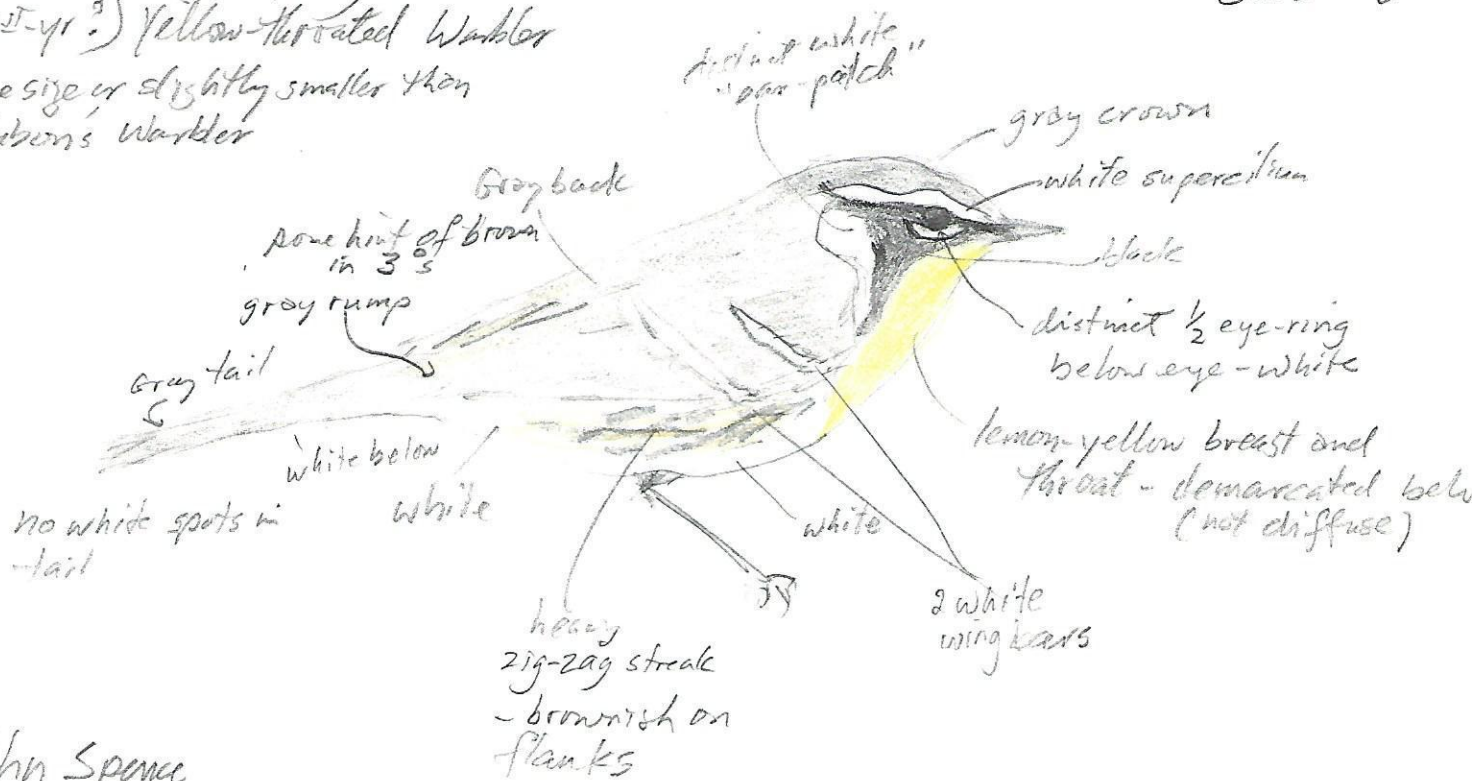
John Green
 yellow-throated warbler
 field sketch

1/28/2002

Zion CBC

Field Sketch (2nd of 2)
 ♀ (1st-yr?) Yellow-throated Warbler
 same size or slightly smaller than
 Audubon's Warbler

2003-08



John Spence

28 Dec 2002 130 PM Zion Nat. Park - near Grotto Picnic Area