

# Yellow-rumped 'Myrtle' Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*)



## Interesting Facts

- There are 2 subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler: (1) the 'Myrtle' Warbler which is found in eastern North America and in the north (north and east of the Rocky Mountains) and (2) the 'Audubon's' Warbler which is found west of the Rocky Mountains and along the Pacific Coast



## Identification

As with most other warbler species, Myrtles are brightly colored. They have a yellow patch on the rump, flanks and crown paired with a black bib and a bluish gray back and tail. Males are brighter than females and older birds and brighter than younger birds. All individuals also have white spots in the tail which are visible in flight.

## Breeding & Winter Range

During the summer breeding season, this species can be found across much of the Boreal forest in Canada and the northern United States from Newfoundland to Alaska including the intermountain west as far south as Mexico. In the Yukon, they breed throughout the territory and can be expected in nearly all forested habitats. This species spends the winter months as far north as southern British Columbia and from the northeast United States south to Mexico and central America.

To date, the Yukon Bird Observatories have had four long distance band recoveries for this species:

- Portland, Oregon to McIntyre Marsh (Whitehorse)
- Albert Creek (Watson Lake) to Colfax, Louisiana
- Albert Creek (Watson Lake) to Mehanga, Minnesota
- Teslin Lake (Teslin) to McIntyre Marsh (Whitehorse)

## Habitat

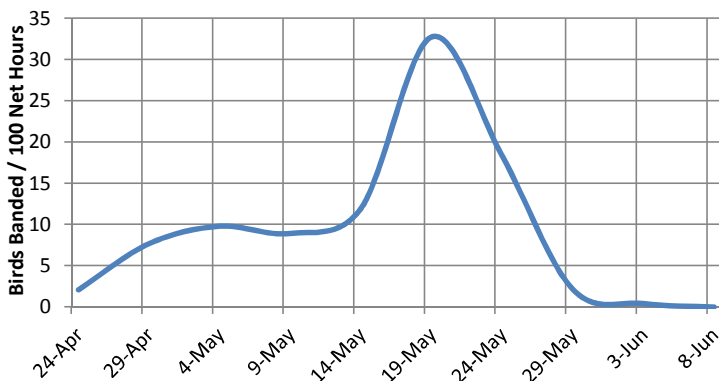
During the breeding season, this species can be found in most forested habitats in the Yukon ranging from the high elevation subalpine to lowland riparian areas. It can be found in a variety of coniferous (spruce, pine, fir) and deciduous (aspen, poplar) forests. During migration, the highest numbers are found in shrubby areas, particularly around wetlands.

## Diet

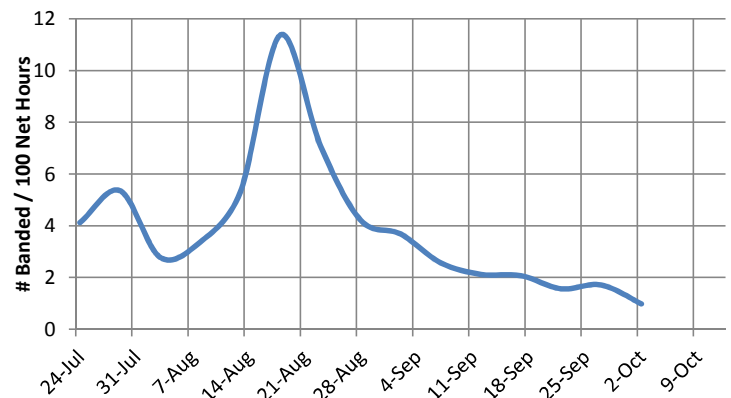
This species primarily feeds on insects which it gleans from vegetation and occasionally captures by flycatching. Because this species winters further north than most insect eating birds, it can also feed on berries to survive periods of cold weather.

## When To See Them at the Yukon Bird Observatories

Being one of the most common species captured at the observatories, yellow-rumps can be seen at almost any time during the spring or fall migration. During spring, the first individuals arrive in late April or early May with the highest numbers during mid May. During fall, they can be seen from the start of the season in late July until early October with the highest numbers during late August or early September.



Yellow-rumped Warbler spring migration timing at the Albert Creek Bird Observatory



Yellow-rumped Warbler fall migration timing at the Teslin Lake Bird Observatory