

Yellow-throated Warbler  
June 2, 2009  
Netarts, Oregon  
AHY, male

Circumstances: Returning home from work a little after 1 PM I heard an interesting *Dendroica* warbler singing as I got out of the truck. I dropped my stuff off in the house got Lauren Harter and we started searching for the bird, which had moved north, but was still singing. Lauren finally spotted it about 2 blocks north (and 10 mins later) from where I had first heard it. I got a brief look (enough to see that it was a Yellow-throated Warbler), before I ran back to the house for my camera and cell phone. Unfortunately by the time I returned the bird had stopped singing and had moved off, we were unable to relocate it.

Description: A mid sized warbler with a long *Dendroica* black bill, bright yellow throat and distinctive bold face pattern. My views were brief and mostly of the looking up at its head. The bird showed a bright yellow throat which extended down to about the mid chest region. The bird had a white supercilium (I couldn't tell if there was any yellow in the lores). The crown was a gray blue which extended toward the back (I wasn't able to note any black in the crown as I was looking up at the bird and I couldn't see the back either). The bird had a black eye line which extended down as an auricular patch behind the eye and a black border to the yellow throat. The black extended down and I could see the start of streaking on the sides of the chest. (I wasn't able to see the flanks). The bird had a white arc below the eye framed by black. I could just see some white behind the auriculars but beyond this was out of view for me. I also was only able to see one white wing bar to the median coverts. I was unable to see the rest of the wing. The part of the wing I could see was the same blue gray color as the crown. Below the white throat the underparts were white.

Voice: The bird was singing. The song was sort of a swedtle swedtle swedtle swedtle, chee chee chee. I didn't take notes at the time on the song, so this is from memory.

Discussion: Even with a brief, but decent look this is still a straightforward identification. Given that the bird was singing it can be sexed as a male. The only realistic id contender is Grace's Warbler and that species is easily ruled out by the song (both Lauren and I have heard a lot of Grace's Warblers), as well as the black auriculars, white eye arc, and white supercilium.

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Yellow-throated Warbler, Netarts, Tillamook County, OR  
Lauren Harter (also observed by David Vander Pluym)  
June 2 2009

**OBSERVATION:** Upon arriving home from work in the early afternoon, I noticed a strange warbler song coming from an adjacent lot. I listened to a few recordings but couldn't find a good match. David came home a few minutes later, had also noticed the song, and we decided to go look for the bird. Even though it had only been a few minutes, the bird had moved a good distance, and we had to walk at a brisk pace to catch up with the singer as it moved north. Luckily it stayed in one patch for a few minutes, and I was finally able to pick out the bird singing from high in a spruce, and to get David on it. We were able to watch it for less than a minute before it climbed higher in the tree out of view, and David left to tell our coworkers about the bird. I couldn't refind it, and the bird had stopped singing by the time everyone returned. David walked north along the highway while I stayed with our coworkers in the last spot I had heard it sing, but we did not hear or see it again.

**IDENTIFICATION:**

The bird's song immediately struck me as something different. It had a similar cadence and tone to a Yellow Warbler, but was longer and more complex.

As soon as I actually saw the bird, I called out "Yellow-throated Warbler" (expletives deleted). The crisp white underparts with black streaking on the sides were apparent, in combination with the bright yellow throat extending on to the upper breast. I focused on the facial pattern, noting both the white superciliary and white spot behind the black auriculars and mask.

With the bird so high and such a brief look, I was not able to get a look at the back or wing patterns, or get much of a feel for structure. The most I can say I noted was that it was a somewhat stocky, medium-sized, active warbler with a fairly thick blackish bill.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:**

Since Grace's Warbler is the species most likely to be confused with Yellow-throated, I made a point of noting the white spot behind the auriculars that sets this species apart. I am also very familiar with the very different song of Grace's Warbler.

Audubon's Warbler has yellow restricted to the throat rather than extending onto the breast, a solid black breast rather than streaked sides, yellow on the sides, and a different face pattern. Blackburnian Warblers can show a yellowish throat, but not as bright as this bird, with a different song and orangish rather than white in the face pattern.