

736A-04-2004

**Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata* ssp.), Audubon's subspecies group**

**Age/sex:** adult male breeding

**Date:** Apr. 19, 2004, ~12:00 PM-6:30 PM

**Location:** Fry's Landing, Presque Isle State Park, Erie County

**Observer:** Ben Coulter  
3431 Argyle Ave  
Erie, PA 16505-1804  
814-838-9773  
aeridia@velocity.net

**Other observers:** Chuck Gehringer, Dave Wilton

**Habitat:** The warbler was feeding actively in an area containing mainly European white birches, exotic honeysuckle, and scotch pines.

**Distance to bird:** It was viewed at distances as close as twenty feet.

**Conditions:** mostly sunny to raining, 60s Fahrenheit, some wind

**Optics:** Swarovski 8.5x42 binoculars, Leica 77mm APO scope w/ 20-60x eyepiece, Nikon Coolpix 995

**Description:** This bird, like all Yellow-rumpeds, was a fairly sizeable (for a warbler), average-shaped warbler. The basic color for the head, including the nape, malar, auriculars, and crown, was dark slate gray, with scattered darker streaks. There was a yellow median crown stripe, with no obvious lateral crown stripes. The lores were blackish, slightly darker than the rest of the face, but blending cleanly with the background color of the head. There was no hint of a supercilium. The throat was bright yellow, triangular with a rounded border, not reaching behind the ear coverts. There were fairly narrow white eye arcs above and below the eye.

The back and scapulars were mainly slate gray, with blackish arrowhead-shaped feather centers. There was a bright yellow patch on the rump, while the uppertail coverts were gray with large blackish centers. The breast and sides were extensively black, with an isolated yellow patch near the bend of the wing. The belly and flanks were white, with several rows of dark streaking on the flanks, sparsest on rear flanks. The vent and undertail coverts were white.

The median and the greater secondary coverts were black with very extensive white tips and fringes, creating a white wing panel. The primaries and secondaries were blackish, with pale fringes. The tertials were blackish with a wide gray fringe on the outer webs. The tail feathers were blackish, fringed gray, with white subterminal bands across the outer five pairs. The white in the tail was more of a tail band, compared to the white corners of Myrtle.

The iris was dark brown. The bill was blackish, and slightly thinner and sharper than a Myrtle's bill. The legs and feet were blackish.

**Behavior:** The warbler was fairly active much of the time, mainly feeding low in honeysuckle tangles, due to fairly strong winds keeping the insects near the ground. Occasionally, it would glean from higher up in a birch or pine. It tended to remain within a few dozen yards of where it was found, associating with a large feeding group of Myrtles, a couple of Pine Warblers, and a Black-throated Green. It was quite confiding at times.

**Vocalizations:** The bird called several times. The call was flatter and softer than Myrtle.

**Supporting Evidence:** see photographs by Ben Coulter.

**Similar species:** Myrtle Yellow-rumped must be ruled out. An adult male Myrtle has a white throat, with white wrapping around the rear of the black auriculars. It also shows a white supercilium and supraloral spot, giving a strongly masked effect. The black on the breast is less extensive than on Audubon's, and the greater coverts show less white.

An intergrade between Audubon's and Myrtle could also cause confusion; however, such birds exhibit characteristics of both subspecies groups. These birds are rarely reported away from the intergrade zone in the Canadian Rockies.

**Prior experience:** I've seen Audubon's in Texas (molting to alternate) and in SE Arizona (basic plumage).

# **Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

## **Voting Tabulation – Round Two**

Species: Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*)

Date of Sighting: 19 April 2004 to 19 April 2004

Location: PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK

County : ERIE

Observer(s): Ben Coulter, Dave Wilton, Chuck Gehringer

Date of Submission: 2004

Submitted by: Ben Coulter

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

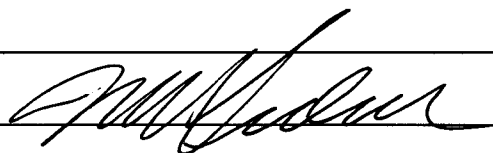
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanley	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

**Comments:**

Signature (Secretary)



Date: 2/20/05