

Identification features of Myrtle Warbler aka Yellow-rumped Warbler

Kilwinning, Ayrshire – from observations taken on 23rd February 2024



Ear coverts browner than head

Mantle has heavy, dark streaks

Initial view was of a brown looking bird, which suggests a winter plumage female or 1st winter bird. Closer views suggest that this is a 1st winter bird and most likely a male.

Note: Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata* has two distinct races:

1. Audubon's *ssp auduboni*, found in western USA and not recorded in WP;
2. Myrtle *ssp coronata*, found in eastern USA and recorded in WP.

Hint of yellow rump

Conspicuous broken eye ring at both the front and rear.

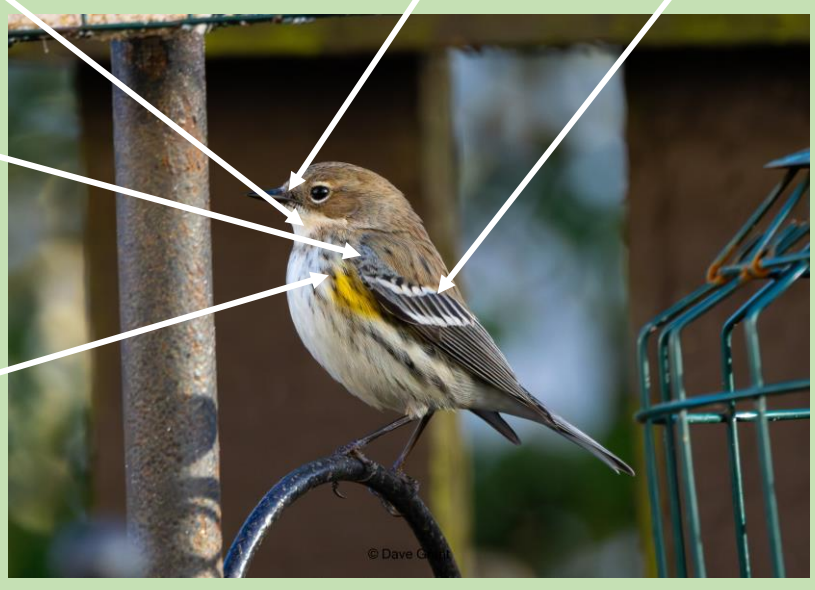
Heavily streaked underparts

There is a hint of black coming through in the lores – diagnostic of a male

Pale throat and sides of neck, wrapping around underneath the dark ear coverts

Double wing bar

Blue lesser coverts moulting through suggest a male



Bright yellow spot on the fore flank

For interest, an Audubon's Warbler shows white in four or more outer tail feather, compared to Myrtle which shows three or less.

Large white spots surrounded by a black border are diagnostic of Yellow-rumped Warbler



The yellow rump!



References
 Sibley, D. (2014) The North American Bird Guide 2nd Edition
 Stephenson, T. & Whittle, S. (2013) The Warbler Guide
 Van Duivendijk, N. (2011) Advanced Bird ID Handbook The Western Palearctic