

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris*

During its breeding season, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher ranges widely across the boreal forest of Canada, having a distribution similar to many warblers that reach California as vagrants annually. The flycatcher's apparent rarity in California (only 15 well-supported records through 2003) is due in part to the difficulty of distinguishing it from the common Western Flycatcher. In the juvenile Yellow-bellied, however, the wingbars are yellowish white; in the juvenile Western they are ochre.

Migration: San Diego County's first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma (S7) 28 September–1 October 2003 (M. Sadowski, M. Billings, G. McCaskie, E. Copper, et al.). The bird responded in kind to playing of taped recordings of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher's characteristic "pyoowip" call. The identification is supported by excellent photographs.



Photo by Matt Sadowski