

PASSERIFORMES

(Songbirds)

Yellow-Breasted Chats



Pict1

Family ICTERIIDAE (Yellow-Breasted Chats)

Yellow-Breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)



Clark Co. Wetlands Park; NV



Clark County Wetlands Park; Las Vegas, NV



Clark Co. Wetlands Park; NV



Clark Co. Wetlands Park; NV



Clark Co. Wetlands Park; NV

Measurements:

Length: 7" Wing Span: 10" Average Weight: 1 oz

Distinguishing Field Characteristics:

medium size; plain dark olive-gray above, bright yellow breast, white belly; long dark tail; stout, black bill; dark eyes with bold white eyering and connecting eyeline that forms "spectacles"; white malar, little sexual dimorphism

Notes:

uncommon; solitary, secretive; favors dense vegetation (thickets, hedgerows, etc.) in its summer range throughout most of US and parts of sw CAN, wintering in Central America; subsists on insects, berries, spiders, etc.

Mojave presence: migratory; summer range in AZ, UT

Comments:

It has long been debated where this bird fits in avian taxonomy. Originally placed in the warbler family (*Parulidae*), it was included for a short time with blackbirds (*Icteridae*), which are both closely related groups. However, with the advent of more accurate DNA testing techniques, this New-World chat is now considered the only member of its own family, *Icteriidae*. This, of course, still creates a great deal of confusion for novice and experienced birders alike, as different resources provide conflicting information on the matter. Nevertheless, the elusive and very secretive Yellow-Breasted Chat is a beautiful and rare treat to encounter and photograph! The birds above atypically presented themselves in June of 2020 at the Clark County Wetlands Park in the Las Vegas Valley.