

**YELLOW WARBLER**  
**(*DENDROICA PETECHIA*)**

**Navajo/Federal Statuses:** NESL G4 / MBTA; not listed under the ESA.

**Distribution:** Breeding range includes most of Canada and AK, most of the U.S. and interior Mexico, but fragmented and local in the Southwest (mostly absent from southern and eastern CA, NV, western UT, northern and western AZ, NM, and TX); winters from coastal Mexico to South America. No current breeding records for Navajo Nation, but potential exists throughout where suitable habitat is present (especially areas of the San Juan River and its tributaries).

**Habitat:** In western US, nests primarily in wet, deciduous thickets, especially those dominated by willows, and in disturbed and early successional habitats. Migration habitats are mainly semi-open scrub or shrublands and second-growth forests, often associated with wetlands.

**Similar Species:** No other warblers on Navajo Nation are entirely yellow (male has rusty breast streaks); Yellow-rumped, Grace's, and Virginia's Warblers have various patches of yellow on throat and rump only; MacGillivray's Warbler has yellow belly but slate-gray head; Orange-crowned Warbler is olive-green above and greenish-yellow below with few faint breast streaks; female Common Yellowthroat is olive-brown above with a white belly, and male has black mask; Yellow-breasted Chat is 5-cm larger, brownish above, with white belly and eye-ring; female Lesser Goldfinch is greenish-yellow with dark wings and tail, male has black cap and wings.

**Phenology:**

- m.APR-m.MAY: arrival to breeding areas, pair formation, mating
- m.MAY-m.JUL: egg-laying and incubation<sup>1</sup> (11 days)
- e.JUN-l.JUL: nestling period (8-10 days)
- m.JUN-m.AUG: fledging of young (young with adults ≥17 days post-fledge)
- m.AUG-e.OCT: independence of young and migration

<sup>1</sup>Yellow Warbler nests are often parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds

**Survey Method:** ≥1 pedestrian survey with high-power optics during 1 MAY-30 JUN.

**Avoidance:** No activity within 0.2 km (1/8 mi) of active nest from 15 APR-31 JUL; extreme disturbances (e.g. blasting) may require larger buffer; no alteration of suitable habitat year-round within 0.2 km of habitat patches used for breeding, or potential habitat until surveyed.

**References:**

Lowther, P.E., C. Celada, N.K. Klein, C.C. Rimmer, and D.A. Spector. 1999. Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*). In *The Birds of North America*, No.454 (A.Poole and F.Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. (description p.2)