



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

January 24, 2025

Meet the Yellow-rumped Warbler

Thank you to our community for the outpouring of support and concern during the recent fires. We are thankful to be back in our facility and are now able to admit patients.

Meet the Yellow-rumped Warbler patient who survived the evacuation and rejoined the wild.

Towards the end of December, we admitted an adult male Yellow-rumped Warbler from the Northridge area. The bird was found in poor condition, on his back on a sidewalk. After an initial examination, our Wildlife Technicians determined that the warbler likely suffered injuries from a window strike. The patient was given anti-inflammatory medications, nutritional support, and placed in a small enclosure to rest.



Patient in the outdoor aviary.

Yellow-rumped Warblers are one of about 435 warbler species worldwide and are the most common warbler species in North America. They are known for their yellow markings, notably on their rump and sides and have been nicknamed, "butterbutts." They are one of the few warbler species that don't typically migrate away from the Los Angeles area and can be found year-round in our backyards.

Yellow-rumped Warblers are highly adaptable and, like many species, change their diets depending on the seasons. They are largely insectivores but will eat berries during the colder months. Unlike other warblers, the Yellow-rumped Warbler can digest the wax from berries like the wax myrtle and bayberry, which allow them to survive during the winter months when insects might be scarce. This digestive perk is largely unique to the Yellow-rumped Warbler and allows them to stay put during colder months when other warbler species must migrate.

Once the wildfire evacuation order was given, the patient was securely moved to a safe location. Soon after transport, the patient was deemed rehabilitated and was successfully released.



Male Yellow-rumped Warbler in flight.