

Pacific-Slope Flycatcher

Empidonax difficilis

A small yellowish flycatcher of shaded forests and streamsides, the Pacific-slope Flycatcher is found in the Pacific Coast states. It is nearly identical in appearance to the Cordilleran Flycatcher, and the two forms were formerly considered to be the same species, known as the “Western Flycatcher.”

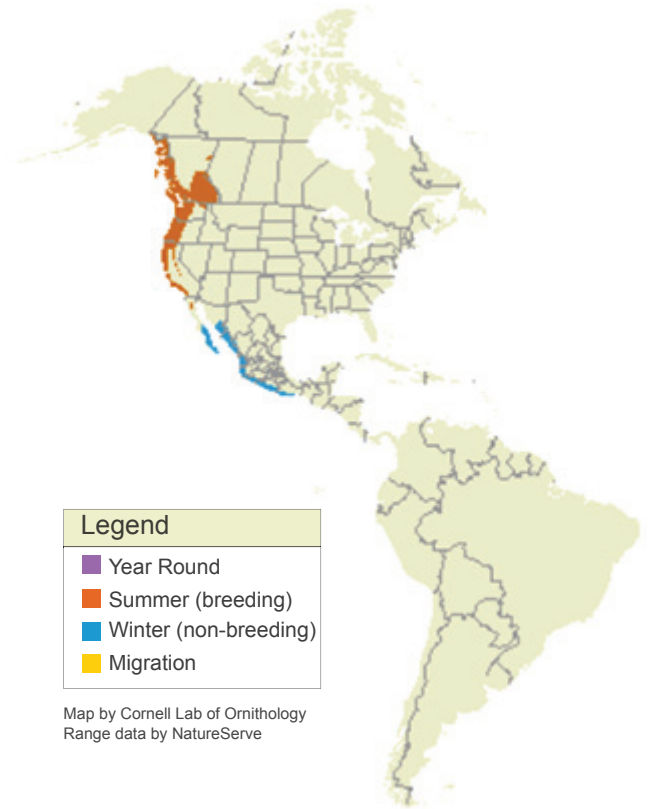
Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Small flycatcher.
- Prominent pale yellowish eyering and wingbars.
- Back greenish brown.
- Underparts yellowish.

Immature Description

Similar to adult, but wingbars more buffy.



Cool Facts

- The population of Pacific-slope Flycatcher breeding on the Channel Islands off southern California may actually be best treated as a distinct species. It is larger than mainland populations, has a longer bill, a paler chest, slightly different vocalizations, and differs genetically.
- The scientific name of the Pacific-slope Flycatcher, *difficilis*, is appropriate. It means “difficult,” and this species is extremely difficult to distinguish from the similar Cordilleran Flycatcher.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 5.5 - 6.7 inches
- Wingspan - 7.9 - 9.1 inches
- Weight - 0.3 - 0.4 ounces