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Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

ACCEPTED

CFO-RC FILE X: _____ RESULTS: _____

Species (please include common and scientific name): Cassin's Vireo (Vireo cassinii)

Red 1/14/01 upl

Date(s) of Observation: September 24, 2000

Number of birds seen: 2 Sex: unknown Plumage: adult

Exact location: Connected Lakes unit of Colorado River State Park near Grand Junction in Mesa County.

Length of observation: approx. 10 minutes

Time(s) of observation: approx 10 a.m

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you:

None

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): None

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): Good light. Partly cloudy. Sun behind the viewer.

Optical equipment used: 10x40 binoculars.

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 30 feet.

Was bird(s) photographed? No

Have you submitted photos? No

Who took the photographs? N/A.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Canopy of mature Rio Grande cottonwood (*Populus fremonti*, var. *wislizenii* or *P. wislizenii*) in a riparian cottonwood woodland adjacent to the Colorado River.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):

The birds were actively foraging in the canopy. They moved constantly within the canopy gleaning in the fashion of several vireo and warbler species. Not particularly useful for identification except very generally.

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Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

Thick, straight, vireo bill. Gray head. Olive green back. Dark gray wings with 2 white wingbars. Dingly white throat, breast, and belly. Yellowish sides and flanks. White eye ring and spectacle line. Dark gray tail, lighter gray beneath.

Describe birds call or song: None.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

These birds were much yellower on the sides and flanks than any Plumbeous Vireo that I have ever seen. Their heads were rather dull gray rather than the brighter blue-gray of the Blue-headed Vireo.

What is your prior experience with this and similar-appearing species? Minimal experience with Cassin's. I have seen one previously in western Colorado. I have seen Blue-headed in Minnesota. I have seen hundreds of Plumbeous Vireos..

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): Reviewed descriptions in National Geographic (3rd ed.) following the observation to confirm field marks recorded.

This report was made from notes made during the observation.

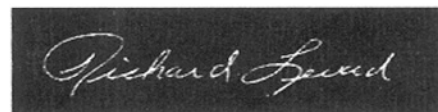
Date of written report: January 14, 2001.

Signature:

Reporting observer: Rich Levad

Address: 564 B Villa St.

Grand Junction, CO 81504



Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee
c/o Bill Lisowsky 2919 Silverplume Dr. Ft. Collins, Co. 80526