

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

(Please print or type. Attach photographs, drawings, and additional pages if necessary.)

Rcd 12/18/99 upl  
**ACCEPT 7-8**

Species: Blue-headed Vireo Vireo solitarius  
(Common Name) (Scientific Name)

Date(s) of observation: Sept. 14, 15, 1999

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: M Plumage: Basic

Exact location: Adjacent to NE corner Bass Lake, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (Prospect Park)

County: Jefferson Nearest town: Wheat Ridge Elevation: 5445'

Length of observation: 20 min. Times(s) of observation: 1235 - 1250 DST (9/14), 1300-05 (9/15)

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: 9/15: Ken Chavez and Richard Stevens.

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): Van Remsen reported bird to me as he left park at 0930.  
(Had seen on Tree Bridge Trail)

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird's; position): Partly cloudy-full sun coming from over my shoulder, in and out of shade.

Optical equipment used: 8x56 Swarovski binoc

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 20-70'

Was bird photographed?: yes If so, have you submitted photographs? no

Who took the photographs? videotaped by Stevens

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Wooded area of mature deciduous trees (cottonwoods, willows, Russian olives) situated between Bass Lake and Clear Creek. Area has small stream flow from Bass Lake when level is high, flowing into Clear Creek.

Describe the bird's behavior (flying; feeding; habits; behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification): "mini-fallout" in progress, with several warbler species, Plumbeous Vireos, chickadees, towhee, Warbling Vireos, Downy, all feeding together. V. solitarius flew in to sight, (over

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) 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. Describe other 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 of field notes): Larger than Wilson's Warblers in same trees. Head solid dark gray, including nape and face. Dark bill short and stubby; prominent white spectacle, dark eye. Unstreaked green/olive back, sharp contrast to gray nape. Underparts white from chin thru under-t coverts with yellow/greenish/olive feathering along sides of breast and flanks. Describe bird's call or song: mostly olive at lower flank. Tail dark above, gray below. Legs dark. none Wings gray/black with 2 prominent whitish wing bars with yellow tinge. median covert bar. Tertials prominently edged with white, (over)

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Cassin's Vireo - duller in overall color; lacks sharp contrast between head and back, and face and chin-throat of Blue-headed Vireo. Bright yellow/green of side/flank area of solitarius more dull olive in Cassin's. Vireo plumbeous lacks both the green tones on back and extensive yellow on sides. Imm. White eyed Vireo has dark eye, but spectacles are yellow.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Saw this species along Coast of Texas, 4/95. Have seen Cassin's V. 4x in Colo., Plumbeous V. many times.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation): Reviewed Nat. Geo., Audubon Master Series, Audubon Encyclopedia to compare my observation notes with their descriptions.

This report was made from notes made during xx or after        observation, or later from memory       .

Date of written report: Sept. 15, 1999

Reporting observer: Karleen Schofield Signature: Karleen Schofield

Observer's address: 33 Yates St., Denver, CO. 80219

Send report to: Bill Lisowsky, 2919 Silverplume Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526



(behav. continued:) settled on nearby cottonwood, eating black berries from vine growing up trunk of tree (specimen sent to Dave Leatherman; Pers. com. "Virginia Creeper"). Actively moving along branches, feeding in methodical, deliberate manner, more subdued than that of warblers.

(desc. cont. :) very thin white border on folded flight feathers (or remiges, as Jon Dunn likes to call them). *Though guides show yellowish highlight on the wings, does this color fade to more whitish by fall migrations or do Blue-headed Vireos differ in amount of yellow on wings in spring, also?*

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

(Please print or type. Attach photographs, drawings, and additional pages if necessary.)

Rcd 9/19/99 up

Species: BLUE-HEADED VIREO (Common Name) VIREO SOLITARIUS (Scientific Name)  
Date(s) of observation: 9/15/99  
Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: M Plumage: Very fresh, colorful, clean.  
Exact location: Wheat Ridge; Prospect Park; N. side of Clear Creek; West of Charles Pappas, near parking lot.  
County: JEFFERSON Nearest town: WHEAT RIDGE Elevation: @ 5,500 ft.  
Length of observation: 10 mins. Times(s) of observation: @ 7:45-7:55  
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: None  
Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):  
Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird's; position): Morning sun behind me gave good illumination w/ no glare.  
Optical equipment used: 10X BINOCULARS  
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 30 ft.  
Was bird photographed?: No If so, have you submitted photographs?  
Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

Willows along Clear Creek, near top of 20' (about) willow thickets.

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

Feeding. No song or call. Coz out in open, occasionally, but mostly hidden in dense.

Describe the bird(s) in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include overall size and shape, and how you placed the bird(s) 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. Describe other 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 of field notes):

Bright white spectacles; clean, bright yellow flanks; white throat contrasting w/ bluish head; clear demarcation between bluish head & greenish back; white belly.Describe bird's call or song: SILENTDiscuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Bright yellow flanks, clear distinction between bluish head & greenish back, different wing for other

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Have seen Plumbeous a number of times. First time for Vireos Blue-headed.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):

This report was made from notes made during \_\_\_\_\_ or after \_\_\_\_\_ observation, or later from memory XDate of written report: 9/16/99Reporting observer: ETHAN CARR Signature: Ethan CarrObserver's address: 1629 JACKSON ST. DENVER CO 80206

Send report to: Bill Lisowsky, 2919 Silverplume Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526



1999

Vol 35/1 Jan 2001

1999-109 (add info)

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

(this is a two page report-click at the bottom for page 2)

CFO-RC FILE X: \_\_\_\_\_

RESULTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Recd 12/28/00 upe

A

NO VOT/RECORD

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific name):

Blue-headed Vireo Vireo solitarius

Date(s) of Observation: 14 Sept. 1999

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: ad.

Exact location: Wheatridge Greenbelt at Prospect Park

County: Jefferson Nearest town: Wheatridge Elevation: ~5400 ft?

Length of observation: 5 mins + Time(s) of observation: ~07:30

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: none

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): evidently many saw it later that day

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): good

Optical equipment used: 10x40 Zeiss

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted):

Was bird(s) photographed? No If so, have you submitted photos?

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: riparian woodland

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

(see attached field notes)

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<http://www.cfo-link.org/reportform.html>

## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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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): (see attached field notes)

(\*)

Describe birds call or song:

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

Cassin's has slow song and lacks strong crown-face-beak contrast

[P.S. — the sex differences mentioned in my field notes refer to unpublished data on sexual dimorphism in V. solitarius in plumage]

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? 7000 seen in Louisiana (plus 1 in Colorado) Seen virtually daily at my place Nov.-Dec for 11 years.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): none (but I have studied hundreds of specimens at LSU and elsewhere in an analysis of male-female differences)

This report is from notes made during ☒ or after ☒ observation, or later from memory ☐

Date of written report: 6/30/00

Reporting observer: Van Remsen

Signature:

Address: Museum of Natural Science  
LSU  
Baton Rouge LA 70803

(\*) prediction — in Colorado a high % of Solitary Vireos in 2nd half of September, and 75% of those in October are actually Blue-headed.

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

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Remsen,  
J.V.  
1999

Blue-headed Vireo

Vireo solitarius

14 Sept. Prospect Park area, Wheatridge Greenbelt, Jefferson Co. Colorado  
1 ad. ♂ studied off and on for 20 minutes (about 5 mins viewing time) in the footbridge area. The bird was obviously a Solitary-type, with striking gray and white face pattern, strong wingbars, mostly white below with <sup>greenish</sup> yellowish flanks. The striking sharp contrast between the dark blue-gray area of face and crown with the white spectacle immediately suggested Blue-headed — the crown was a solid blue-gray with no hint of greenish or olive, and it contrasted fairly sharply with the greenish back. Also, the line of demarcation between the dark malar and white throat was very crisp. The absence of any faint buff wash across breast indicated male. Then the bird sang — a series of rich warbling notes, evenly spaced, recalling Red-eyed Vireo (and eliminating slower, more mournful, shorter songs of Plumbeous or Cassin's). Several brief singing bouts. Also the nasal, harsh "bouncing ball" chatter heard twice — characteristic of Blue-headed (also in Cassin's - Plumbeous?). I watched the bird from as close as 20 feet in good light.

Few Colorado records, but undoubtedly overlooked