

Species: Philadelphia Vireo Vireo philadelphicus  
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): October 17, 1975 Time Bird Seen: Noon to 12:15 PM

Locality: Barr Lake

Nearest Town: Brighton County: Adams

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>None</u>		

Optical Equipment: 7 X 50 binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: first bird: seen in shade only second: sun shining from behind me on it

Distance from bird (how measured): both a minimum estimated distance of 10-15 feet

Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: ? Plumage: typical

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The first bird was observed in willows about 12-15 feet high in understory of cottonwood woodland. This bird was very slow, seldom moving but spending most of its time simply sitting. The second bird was also seen in feeding in willows, usually somewhat more actively than the first. Both were observed in a flock of mostly chickadees and juncos.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Both birds appeared identical in appearance except for one feature (noted below). (crown obviously a vireo from the relatively heavy, thick bills. Crown, nape, back, wings] grayer and rump unmarked olive with a slight brownish cast; a fairly short & inconspicuous than pale yellowish superciliary line; lored with a small black spot in the first bird, back) the second bird appeared to lack this mark although I could not be 100% sure of that; throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly and undertail coverts yellow, fairly bright on the throat and breast, paler towards the tail, no markings anywhere on underparts; eyes black. Underwing surface, rump not seen. Tail of average proportions (I think), appeared to about same color as back but I did not pay too much attention to details of the tail as I concentrated on other areas of the birds.



Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:  
None heard.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:  
Cottonwood-willow growth bordering shore of moderately large plains irrigation reservoir.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Orange-crowned Warbler-thinner bill, more active(generally), color of breast generally not a fairly bright, clear yellow color, has obscure streaks on underparts, has a small silvery mark on the shoulder.

Tennessee Warbler-thinner bill, more active behavior, often has a single wingbar, undertail coverts white.

Most vireos-have spectacles.

Red-eyed Vireo-lacks strong yellow on underparts, at the range I observed these birds I probably could have seen red eyes, has white undertail coverts even if there in some yellowish elsewhere on underparts.

Warbling Vireo-underparts seldom with this much yellow, and then it is strongest on sides, flanks and undertail coverts as on this birds where the color was strongest on breast. Superciliary line wider, stronger, more conspicuous. Upperparts do not show strong greenish color, are grayish or brownish with only a faint greenish cast if any green color at all. Lores always white(one of the birds I saw definately had a small black spot on the lores. However, I believe that this may be an over-emphasized mark of the Philadelphia, as there appears to be considerable individuals variation in both live birds and in museum specimens I have looked at).

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Have seen Orange-crowned Warbler, Warbling and Phila Red-eyed Vireos many times, have seen Tennessee Warbler several times(mostly in breeding plumage)and have seen Philadelphia Vireo several times in Colorado.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Standard guides confirmed identification. Specimens looked at in DMNH(both species), shows variation in strength of black lores(only 2 Philadelphia specimens in collection) many Warblings, none approach brightness of yellow or green of back as birds I saw.

This report was written from notes made during X after        observation; from memory       

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