

A

2358 S. Fillmore  
Denver, Co. 80210  
May 21, 1990

Philadelphia Vireo

Official Records Committee  
c/o Zoological Collection  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, Co. 80205

To: Whomever Concerned

The morning of May 20, 1990 was noted by a weather pattern that had moved west across Bonnie Reservoir, Yuma Co., the previous night. Weather that morning was cloudy, light rain, with winds decidedly from the east at approximately 10-25 m.p.h.

At approximately 9:45 a.m. on the east side of Wagon Wheel Campground, looking into the adjacent woods, members of a Denver Field Ornithologists' field trip were engaged in sifting through various eastern type wood warblers which included Blackpoll, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, and Tennessee. I spotted at approximately 35 ft. away, with a gray sky background, what appeared different from a Tennessee and/or Warbling Vireo that we were watching. Not much could be assessed about the bird, and it was not seen again. We returned to the same spot at approximately 11:40 a.m. Jerry Cairo saw a bird that was different than what we had been previously seeing. For the next ten minutes, we all had excellent looks at approximately 20 ft. away of the below-described bird. The bird was frequently low enough so that it was backdropped by green foliage, so color could be well assessed.

In shape the bird appeared shorter-tailed and slightly dumpier than a warbling vireo. In shape it appeared more similar to a Tennessee warbler, except for a thicker, more noticeable bill. The top of the head (forehead, crown, nape) appeared dark gray in color, which contrasted with a darkish olive-gray back. There was a noticeable dark eyeline. The dark lore was decidedly there, but it took close, careful looks to determine

its actual presence; it was slightly thinner than the rest of the eye line effect. The overall effect was to create a noticeable superciliary look vs. a superciliary that starts to be noticeable from above the eye and back on the warbling vireo. There was a noticeable yellow wash on the upper breast with a slightly less noticeable yellow wash on the throat. The belly was white-grayish (no yellow wash). The undertail coverts were washed in yellow. We all noticed what can best be described as a contrastingly lightish color on the wing coverts. It was not a wing bar effect but just a lighter whitish color than the rest of the wing coverts. Possibly if we had focused on this feature more carefully, its makeup could have been better determined. It gave one call note that I do not feel as though I could describe, aside from the fact that it sounded slightly different than the typical call note of a warbling vireo. All of the above-noted field marks seem quite suggestive of the Philadelphia Vireo.

Other D.F.O. participants:

Jerry Cairo  
Glenn & Jean Hageman  
Jean Morgan  
Kathy Carpenter

Submitted by:



Bob Righter