

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM**

RESULTS: _____

rec'd 7-15-98 ✓ ACCEPTED (70)

 SPECIES: White-eyed Vireo
(COMMON NAME)

 Vireo griseus
(SCIENTIFIC NAME)

*(color photo attached
to record 1998-161)*

 DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: at least May 26, 1998
(and probably earlier)

DATE OF THIS OBSERVATION: May 26, 1998

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1

SEX: male

PLUMAGE: adult

 EXACT LOCATION: along S. Platte River upstream from Kingfisher Bridge, Chatfield State Park
COUNTY: Jefferson NEAREST TOWN: Littleton ELEVATION:

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: approx. 10 min.

TIME(S) OF OBSERVATION: 11:00 - 11:10 am

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO SAW AND INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD(S):

None that I am aware of on 5/26. However, a White-eyed Vireo had been reported from this general location on May 10, 11 and 19 (I looked for it unsuccessfully on 5/12).

LIGHT CONDITIONS [QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION]:

Weather was clear with bright sunlight. Sun was essentially overhead.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED:

Bushnell 10x binoculars

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): approx. 30 feet.

 WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? No IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS?
WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS?

GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

Wooded riparian habitat along S. Platte River

BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

The bird was singing from a branch in a small tree about 15 feet above the ground when observed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE BIRD(S) [INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE; PLUMAGE DETAILS INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS, AND TAIL; AND COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S)].

While tracking down a singing Least Flycatcher, I heard a bird singing nearby that attracted my attention. It was singing quite loudly and continuously, making it easy to locate. Before leaving home, I had listened to a recording of White-eyed Vireo songs since the species had been reported from the area as recently as 5/19, and I was pretty sure that was what I was hearing. I spotted the bird perched in a small tree singing repeatedly. It was a small (approx. 5 inch) warbler-size bird. The bird's head looked grayish and the back appeared to be olive gray; the throat was white, and the flanks and sides were yellowish blending into a whitish belly; the wings were blackish with 2 white/pale yellow wing bars. I was able to see the black "vireo" bill, the yellow "spectacles", and the distinctive white eye clearly. Upon returning home, I was able to again compare the song I had heard with the recording of White-eyed Vireo and they were essentially the same.

SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW THEY WERE ELIMINATED:

Even within the vireo family, this is a distinctive bird when seen and heard well. The most-similar species include:

 Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*): superficially quite similar, but has a dark eye and white "spectacles"

Yellow-throated Vireo (*V. flavifrons*): has bright yellow throat and breast, dark eye.
Other "spectacled" vireos (Blue-headed, Plumbeous, Black-capped) have white 'spectacles' and dark eyes.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR SPECIES:

White-eyed Vireo: I have seen this species three times previously in CO (5/90, 5/92 - 2 birds, and 8/97). It is interesting that the one I saw in 8/97 was within 100 yds of where I saw this one on 5/26/98. I have also seen the species in AL, FL, SC, and TX.

Cassin's Vireo: I have seen this species on numerous occasions in CO, mostly in Aug. & Sept.

Yellow-throated Vireo: I have seen this species 3 times in CO (including Chatfield S.P.); I have also observed it in MN, OH, SC and TX.

I also have field experience with all other vireos normally found in CO.

BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THESE INFLUENCED IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 2nd ed. (pp 348-349) - at home after observation

A Field Guide to Bird Songs of Eastern and Central North America - at home before and after observation

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM NOTES MADE DURING _____ OR AFTER X OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY _____

DATE OF THIS WRITTEN REPORT: July 15, 1998

REPORTING OBSERVER: Dick Schottler
25 S. Indiana Place
Golden, CO 80401

SIGNATURE:



CFO-ORC-FILE# 1998-95

✓ rec'd 12-98

PHOTOS x 2

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

Results: _____

Species:

White-eyed Vireo

Vireo Griseus

Dates: 5/24/98

Number of birds seen: one

Sex: ?

Plumage: alternate

Locality: Chatfield State Park

Elevation: about 5700 feet I think

Nearest town: Littleton

County: that's a toughie. Jefferson I think. It was on the trail about one mile upstream from kingfisher bridge

Time observed: 9:30 - 10:00 am

Duration of observation: 30 minutes

Other observers with you: none

Other observers who saw the bird independently: Joey Kellner

Light conditions: sunny

Optical equipment: Leica 10x42 Ultras; photo taken with Canon A2E using Sigma 400 APO MACRO lens

Distance from bird: I got within 20 feet or so

Describe the bird's behavior: it spent most of its time singing while perched about 15 or 20 feet up in dense branches of a tree

Describe the bird (what you actually saw):

size: much smaller than a Spotted Towhee next to it
wings: greater coverts have white ends and dark center, median coverts also have white ends resulting in two white wing bars. secondaries have green edges
head: white eye with black pupil. all dark bill shows white edging on lower mandible on close view. yellowish forehead, grayer crown. black spot on lores.
underparts: whitish throat. yellowish flanks - darker around neck. yellowish undertail coverts. belly white with a little black mixed in. some black in white throat also. gray cheeks. under tail gray with white edges on inside of outer retrices. slightly forked tail. white undertail coverts.
legs: black

Describe the bird's song and call if heard: the song varied considerably during the period of observation except for one thing - it never shut up! At first it was a beerio only - the beer part was often longer. Then there was a chi-WHEE-chu or chi-CUHEE-huuck. All were repeated at about 5 - 10 second intervals (timed from tape recording).

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: wooded area near a stream and next to a grassy field.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

The call itself is pretty distinctive. The white eyes and wing bars with yellowish flanks are also distinctive.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: dozens of White-eyed Vireos during several months of birding in the East.

List books if they helped in your identification: Birds of North America (NGS)

This report was written from notes taken during x, or after observation or from memory. I used a microcassette recorder to record my

observations while I was observing the bird. I timed the playback to get the

DWP

time of observation listed above. I transcribed the tape to written notes within a day or two of observation and wrote this from the written notes on 10/25/98.

Reporting observer:

David W. Quesenberry

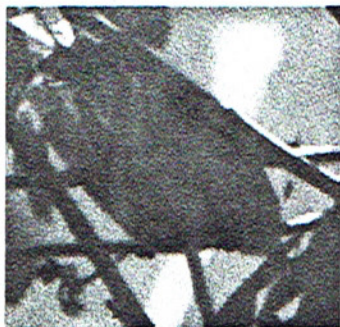
Signature: David W. Quesenberry

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White-eyed Vireo
Chatfield State Park 5/24/98

1998-95