

## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

WHITE-EYED VIREOVireo griseusRed 1/20/00 wpl  
ACCEPT 7-0Location: Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement; Bent County, near Las Animas, ColoradoDate: May 8, 1999

This bird was initially sighted by Brandon Percival. It was seen prior to, and after May 8th, but I am unsure of the inclusive dates.

Setting:

I was leading a very large CFO field trip to Lamar. Scores of birders were present, including Brandon Percival, who discovered this bird previously. The bird was amazingly easy to find and re-find, though it was somewhat secretive and silent -- and all in the group saw it. It stayed to thicker growth, second growth and shrubby smaller trees. At times we observed it at eye level and at close range (as close as 15 feet). The day was sunny and conditions were good for birding. We watched the bird and saw it, off and on, for about an hour in the afternoon. I saw it with B&L Elite 10x40 binoculars. It was curious and responded to "pishing" by coming in to observe us

Description:

The bird was an adult in breeding plumage. It was a small bird, but was a little larger and plumper than a typical warbler. It was about 6" long. It was plump, with a thin, short tail and was relatively big-headed. Its bill was fairly strong, black and hooked. The iris was dull white. It had conspicuous yellow "spectacles" on an otherwise gray head. The back and crown were gray, with a greenish-yellow wash. The wings were dark with two yellow wingbars. The bird was white below (including the chin and throat) with a yellow tinge to the breast, flanks and belly.

Similar Species:

The small size, active habits and small stout bill indicate a vireo. Red-eyed, Philadelphia and Warbling vireos do not have wingbars. Solitary, Bell's, Hutton's and Gray vireos do not have the white iris nor the strong yellow spectacles. Yellow-throated Vireo has a yellow throat and lacks the white iris.

Experience with Species:

I have seen all the vireos mentioned in the section above. This is the eighth White-eyed Vireo that I have seen in Colorado since 1992.

This report is prepared from memory.

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