

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

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

(6-30 Jul 01)

2001-62

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X: 2001-011

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) White-eyed Vireo

(Scientific Name) *Vireo griseus*

Date(s) of occurrence: June 3, 2001

Number of birds seen: One seen + one heard

Sex: unknown

Plumage: adult

Exact location: Streamside willow thicket in canyon just below the Carrizo Picnic Area in Comanche National Grassland

County: Baca

Nearest town: Campo

Elevation: 4,700 ft.

Length of observation: 5 minutes

Time(s) of observation: ~0700 MDT

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Peter Kaestner

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Strong morning sun shining directly on the bird from behind observers.

Optical equipment used: Swift Audubon 8.5 x 44 binocular

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 10 ft.

Was bird(s) photographed? No

If so, have you submitted photos? n/a

Who took the photographs? n/a

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: Lowland Carr: riparian willow thickets

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): Two White-eyed Vireos were heard singing in a small canyon below the Carrizo picnic area. The bird that was eventually seen was foraging in dense, streamside willow thickets, 3-5 feet above the ground. The bird initially responded to "pishing," came close to observers (but still hidden from view) while singing persistently. In response to a recording of a White-eyed Vireo song, the bird came close enough to the edge of the thicket to be observed in several different positions.

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): The bird was first identified by its persistent and distinctive song. Once observed, the diagnostic pale iris and yellow "spectacles" were clearly seen. The bird was approx. 5 inches in length. It showed two white wing bars and yellow flanks.

Describe bird's call or song: A loud, harsh, variable series of notes beginning and ending with *chick* sounds.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Differentiated from Thick-billed Vireo (*Vireo crassirostris*) by pale iris and complete (unbroken), all-yellow "spectacles." Differentiated from Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*) by pale iris, yellow "spectacles," and lack of black cap. Distinguished from all similar species by distinctive song.


What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Both observers have previously seen White-eyed Vireo outside of Colorado.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): The Sibley Guide to Birds, audio recording of White-eyed Vireo song used to draw bird out of thicket.

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

Date of written report: July 18, 2001

Reporting observer: Robert L. Batchelder

Signature: 

Reporting Observer's Address: 5643 Governor's Pond Circle

City: Alexandria

State: Virginia

Zip: 22310

Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
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