

Species: Yellow-throated Vireo

(Vernacular Name)

Vireo flavifrons

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): August 24, 1977

Time Bird Seen: 1830 (MST)

to 1915 (MST)

Locality: 642 Bridger Place, Colorado Springs, Co.

Nearest Town: Colorado Springs

County: El Paso

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

NONE

Optical Equipment: Nikon 9x35 7.3°.

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: Excellent

Distance from bird (how measured): 25 to 30' via steel tape.

Number of Birds Seen: One Sex: Male Plumage: Summer (not fall transition).

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor.

Busily feeding on insects on the leaves of several sentinel popular trees but not in the hurried manner of a wood warbler or kinglet. This bird did not feed lower than about 16' from the ground while I observed it. Unlike a Yellow Warbler, for example, this bird never presented itself to good view. It was very difficult to see at all times and did not stay in any one place for but a few moments.

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:

This bird was approximately 5" in length, somewhat larger than the familiar Warbling or Solitary Vireos and similarly smaller than the Gray Vireo. The shape (silhouette) of the bird appeared no different than other commonly seen Vireos or Wood Warblers, except that the bill was more solid in appearance than a warbler. The really outstanding feature of this bird was the solid bright yellow throat and breast, sharply contrasting with the white below. Also, it had two very conspicuous white wing bars. Further observation showed olive-greenish sides and a somewhat darker head turning to olive-gray at the base of the tail. The outer edges of the tail feathers were an off-white which in flight did not present the flashy white such as does a Vesper Sparrow. This bird had an incomplete eye ring colored brownish-yellow (it appeared somewhat less brilliant yellow than the throat and breast). I did not concentrate on the shape of the wings or tail since they did not seem to me to be different from other Vireos except for the color and markings. If there was any notching of the tail at all it escaped my attention. The bill appeared "heavier" than that of a Warbler in that it was more oval shaped than cylindrical and less pointed at the end.



Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

Did not sing.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

The observation site is located in eastern Colorado Springs at a point very close to transition from Front Range foothills into high prairie. However, it is a residential area some ten years in age and now consists of cultivated landscape featuring large areas of lawns and plantings of poplar, Chinese elm, Russian olive and some conifers.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Essentially by the bright yellow coloring of the throat and breast, the outstanding white wing-bars and the yellowish eye spectacles.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

This was my first identification of a Yellow-throated Vireo. However I have observed hundreds of Hutton's, Solitary, and Warbling Vireos over the past 16 years via field trips, Xmas Counts, etc. I have identified a number of Bell's Vireos in Missouri and Gray ones in S.E. Ariz. I have also had some experience with Mangrove, Yellow-green, and Warbling Vireos in Guatemala.

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

A Field Guide to the Birds (Peterson), Fundamentals of Ornithology (Van Tyne & Berger), Audubon Land Bird Guide (Pough), Birds of N.A. (Robbins et al), Birds of Guatemala (Land) and Birds of Colorado (Bailey & Niedrach) Essentially confirmed my conclusion. This report was written from notes made during X after        observation; from memory X

PRINT NAME: W.G. Hurd SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 8-23-77  
Street Address: 642 Bridger Place Town and State: Colorado Spgs. Co. ZIP: 80909

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110