

DOCUMENTATION --
RARE BIRD SIGHTING

51-92-64 A

AMERICAN BIRDS

Species: YELLOW-THROATED VIREO
(Vernacular name)

Vireo flavifrons
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 5/21/92 Time Bird Seen: around 8:15 am to about 10 am
Locality: CROW VALLEY CAMPGROUND
BRIGGSDALE WELD Co. COLO.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: BUSHNELL 10x42 BINOCULARS

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: _____ Plumage: adult

Light conditions: BRIGHT SUNLIGHT

Distance from bird, and how measured: estimate 100 ft.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

First observed the bird as it flew past me approximately 25 feet away. It was flying 8-10 feet above the ground and landed in some dead branches of a large cottonwood about 4-5 feet above the ground, where I was able to observe it clearly for a few seconds. Was unable to relocate the bird after it flew again.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Area of thick brush with willows and several large cottonwoods.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

RAY BONILLA (now lives in Alabama)

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field. 51-92-6

Bird was a small (est. 5"-6") passerine. When it flew past, several things caught my attention. These included bright yellow on the underparts, and a grayish rump contrasting with a dark back and dark tail. When bird landed, was able to observe it clearly. Bird's underparts were bright yellow on throat and breast and white on the belly. Wings were dark with prominent white wing bars. Back was dark olive, and rump was lighter gray. Bill was black, and was a relatively stout typical "Vireo" bill. Eye was dark. Face pattern included bright yellow "spectacles" around the eyes and across the forehead above the bill. Undertail coverts were white, upper side of tail was blackish. Top of head was olive.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

NONE HEARD

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

1. White-eyed Vireo. (2 in immediate area of this sighting): Dark eye; bright yellow throat and breast, and spectacles eliminated this.
2. Pine Warbler: Bright yellow spectacles, "vireo" bill, and lack of even faint streaking on breast.
3. Yellow-breasted Chat: Yellow spectacles, white wing bars, and bright grayish rump contrasting with a dark back and tail eliminated this.
4. Solitary Vireo (eastern race): Again, bright yellow spectacles, throat, and breast would eliminate this species. Head was not bluish-gray.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have seen yellow-throated Vireo several times before in TX, SC, and CO. Lots of experience with other "spectacled" vireos (except Black-capped) and with Chat.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ☒ observation; from memory ☒.

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