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## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

### YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

Vireo flavifrons

Location: Grove at the northwest edge of Lake Henry; Ordway; Crowley County, Colorado

Date: April 25, 1993

#### Setting:

I observed this bird with Brandon Percival, who called my attention to it. It foraged with a mixed flock of warblers that included about 30 Yellow-rumpeds, 4 Orange-crowns and a male Black-throated Gray Warbler. We observed it on several occasions between 12:15 p.m. and 1:05 p.m. for a total observation period of about 25 minutes. Brandon and I described the bird together and consulted our field guide as we observed. The bird foraged in the mid- and upper-levels of cottonwood and willows. It was not as active as the Yellow-rumped Warblers and fed by walking along small stems and branch tips and probing for insects. It was so slow-moving as to be difficult to locate at times. This lazy foraging distinguished it easily from the warblers. The bird was silent.

#### Description:

The bird was about the length of an Audubon's Warbler, about 5", but was chunkier and shorter-tailed, being a slightly bulkier bird. The bill was dull blue-grey, rather stout and hooked at the tip compared to the warblers. The legs were blue-grey. The eye was dark. The front (chin, throat and chest) were bright lemon yellow. This clear yellow became deeper on the face where it graded into the olive color of the upperparts. The crown, face and back were yellowish-olive. It had distinct yellow spectacles and lores. The wings and tail were dark slate grey. There were two distinct white wingbars. The rump was a contrasting medium grey. The lower belly and undertail were pure white. The tail was rather short, slender and squared off with a weak notch.

#### Similar Species:

The small size and heavy, hooked bill indicate a vireo. The most similar warbler, the Pine Warbler, lacks the broad yellow lores and has a yellowish, not grey, rump. Warbling, Philadelphia and Red-eyed vireos lack wingbars. Gray and Hutton's vireos lack the strong eyerings and lack the two-toned yellow/white underparts. Solitary Vireo lacks the yellow throat and eyering and has a grey, not greenish, crown. The White-eyed Vireo has a white iris, white throat and yellow-tinged flanks.

#### Experience with Species:

I have seen all similar warblers and vireos with which this bird might be confused. I have seen Yellow-throated Vireo one other time in Colorado.

This report is prepared from notes made during and after observation.

*Mark*

Mark Janos  
10 Sedum Ct.  
Pueblo, CO 81001



## CFO Rare Bird Form

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 - New State Record - X - Rare or Unusual bird in  
 ----- Colorado.

Yellow-throated Vireo  
 (Species)

Vireo flavifrons  
 (Scientific name)

## Date(s):

April 25, 1993 12:35-12:55 1:03-1:08 PM 20 minutes.

## Locality:

Grove of trees at the Northwest corner of Lake Henry,  
 Crowley County, Ordway, Colorado.

Nearest town, county and state)

## Optical equipment:

10X40 Bausch & Lomb Custom Binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:  
 Not Photographed.

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

## Light Conditions:

Excellent

## Distance from bird and how measured:

20-40 feet.

## Describe the bird's overall behavior:

The bird was seen with 25 Yellow-rumped Warblers and once  
 with a Orange-crowned Warbler. It did not move as much as  
 the warblers. The bird flew from tree to tree with the  
 other warblers.

## Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

I saw the bird in trees on the North West corner of Lake  
 Henry. It was seen in cottonwoods and russian olives.

Other observers who independently identified the bird  
 (Please list names and address):

Mark Janos 10 Sedum Court, Pueblo Co. 81001

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. The field  
 marks used to identify the bird. Include Size, overall  
 shape, plumage, and color pattern; details on shape of bill,  
 wings, and tail.:

I identified the bird by it's yellow throat, vireo bill  
 (thicker than a warbler's bill), it's yellow spectacles,  
 vireo shape (more chunker looking than the warblers around



it), by it's two white wingbars and by it's all white underparts. The bird seemed the same size as the warblers, though it was chunkier than the warblers and like other vireos. About 5 1/2 inches in length. The bird was in adult breeding plumage. Color patterns: Black bill with a point at the of the lower mandible. Black eyes, yellow spectacles with olive green on the head, hindneck, and back, the face was also olive green except for the yellow spectacles. The wings were grayish blue with two bright white wing bars. Gray uppertail coverts, black tail with white. Throat yellow to breast and all white underparts including undertail coverts. The feet and legs were blueish black. The bill shape was thick like vireos with small point on lower mandible at the tip. The shape of the wings were normal vireo shaped. The tail was normal vireo shaped with a notch seen from underneath.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds if heard:

No calls or sounds heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Pine Warbler:

This species would show streaks on breast and it has a thin warbler bill.

Thick-billed Vireo:

Would have all yellow underneath.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

This was my 2nd Yellow-throated Vireo in Colorado.

I've seen two Pine Warblers in Colorado.

I've never seen a Thick-billed Vireo.

References used during and after sighting:

National Geographic Society's Birds of North America.

This report was written from notes made during X after X; from memory       .

Name: Brandon K. Percival

Mailing address: 935 Harmony Dr.

Pueblo West, Colorado 81007-2604

(719)-547-3722

Signature: Brandon K. Percival

Return form to: CFO Records Committee

c/o Curator-Dept. of Zoological Collections

Denver Museum of Natural History

City Park

Denver, CO 80205