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## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

### YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

#### Vireo flavifrons

Location: Lamar Community College/Willow Creek; Lamar, Prowers County, Colorado

Date: May 2-3, 1997

#### Setting:

This bird was seen by many observers (Brandon Percival among others) over the course of two days. The bird roved in the riparian grove, medium-high to medium-low in the trees. It sang occasionally. While I am not immediately familiar with its song I recognized it as a vireo -- variously sweet phrases given at intervals. We observed the bird repeatedly over the course of the two days, and if you found it, it was not difficult to follow and observe. It was rather slow moving, gleaning along twigs and leaves; sometimes clearly in the open. I observed it with B & L Elite 10x42 binoculars from 20'-50' distance. Conditions and light were excellent.

#### Description:

The bird was an adult in breeding plumage. It was about 6" long, roughly the size of a large warbler, but in shape, plumper and shorter-tailed than a warbler. The bill was dark, fairly stout and hooked at the tip. It had a dark eye. The chin, throat and upper breast were yellow; this gradually became white on the lower breast, belly and undertail coverts. The face, nape and crown were olive-gray with a yellow wash. The bird had marked yellow spectacles against the olive-colored face. The back was olive-gray, the wings slate gray with white wingbars and the rump was gray. The tail was short, square and dark.

#### Similar Species:

The plump shape, size and relatively stout, blunt, hooked bill indicate a vireo. The Pine Warbler is most similar in pattern but lacks the broad yellow lores and has a yellowish, not gray, 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 gray, 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 three other times in Colorado.

This report is prepared from memory.

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