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## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

### YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

#### Vireo flavifrons

Location: Rocky Ford State Wildlife Area; Rocky Ford; Otero County, Colorado

Date: May 12, 1997

#### Setting:

Brandon Percival, Bob Dickson and I were birding mid-morning at Rocky Ford SWA. This is a beautiful varied area of trees and water, with lots of fruiting trees and shrubs (persimmon, apple, plum, current, grape, Russian olive). Brandon first found the bird along a drainage ditch and called our attention to it at 10:40 a.m. Bob and I immediately found it and we all watched it for about 5 minutes from 20'-40'. It was silent. We watched it in the clear and as it moved slowly in heavy foliage just above eye level. The weather was clear and calm. I observed it with B & L Elite 10x42 binoculars.

#### Description:

The bird was an adult in breeding plumage. It was small, about 5". It had a heavy black bill (for such a small bird) with a slight hook; black eyes, legs and feet. The face was grayish-yellow with a bright yellow spectacle around the eye. The crown and upper back were pale grayish-green. The lower back and rump were gray. The wings were dark gray with two white wingbars. The underparts were yellow (fore) and white (aft) with white undertail and lower belly.

#### Similar Species:

The small size; 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 five other times in Colorado.

This report is prepared directly from notes made at the time of observation.

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