

## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

## YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

Vireo flavifrons

Location: Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement; Las Animas; Bent County, Colorado

Date: May 14, 1997

Setting:

Amazingly, this was the fourth Yellow-throated Vireo I saw in S.E. Colorado this spring in 13 days. Brandon Percival, Bob Dickson and I were birding mid-morning at Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement. This is a wooded area above the Ft. Lyon marsh and consists almost entirely of a dense stand of elm trees. The bird was singing. We first saw the bird at 10:55 a.m. and saw it off and on for about another hour. The day was cloudy. We observed it at medium height, foraging and moving slowly in scattered trees along the edges of the heavier groves. It sang as it moved and foraged. All of us saw the bird. I observed it with B & L Elite 10x42 binoculars from 20'-40'.

Description:

The bird was an adult in breeding plumage (probably a male by the fact that it sang). It was medium-sized, about 6" long and plump. The bill (short, stout, hooked) and legs were dark gray; the eyes were black. The undersides were yellow in front (chin, throat and breast) and pure gleaming white behind (lower belly and undertail). The upperparts (crown, face and back) were olive-green. It had yellow spectacles. The rump was grayish. The wings and tail were blackish and it showed two white wingbars.

Similar Species:

The 6" 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 six other times in Colorado.

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

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