

Red 11/4/99 *apl*

RARE BIRD REPORT--SIGHT RECORD

1999 - 105

REPORT FILED BY: Alan E. Versaw
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ACCEPT 7-0

SPECIES: Yellow-throated Vireo

DATE(S): May 15, 1999

OF BIRDS SEEN: 1

SEX: Male (? -- bird was singing, is this definitive?) PLUMAGE: NA

LAT/LONG: 19

ELEVATION: ~6500 ft

TIME OF DAY: 7 am

LOCALITY: On base of the Air Force Academy, near Ice Lake

NEAREST TOWN: Colorado Springs

COUNTY: El Paso

DURATION OF OBSERVATION: 3-5 minutes, 3 or 4 excellent views lasting several seconds each, interrupted by periods of pursuing bird and/or obstructed views.

OTHER OBSERVERS: none

LIGHT CONDITIONS: ranging from bright sunlight to shaded (by pine boughs)

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Bushnell Natureview 8 X 42 bins

DISTANCE: 20 - 40 feet (approximate)

PHOTO DATA: none—had camera along, but the bird was not particularly inclined to pose

BIRD BEHAVIOR: The bird was moving between Gambel Oak and Ponderosa Pine, ranging from 6 - 20 feet high. The bird sang frequently during the time and seemed to be gleaning, occasionally, from the foliage. The bird was a little difficult to follow because it did keep moving—more or less in a single direction—and a couple times I probably would have lost the bird but for the repetition of the song.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BIRD: The bird was bright yellow on the throat and breast, greenish-yellow on top of the head and on the upper back. Yellow spectacles. Two white wing bars, lower more vivid than upper. White belly (legs protruded from white area, not yellow). Fairly abrupt change from yellow on breast to white on belly. Vireo size, shape, and bill. Nothing particularly distinctive noted about the tail. Yellow of breast did not extend down as far as shown in Peterson guide (Nat'l Geo guide better depicts this bird). The bird was larger, and stockier, than typical warblers.

SONG AND/OR CALL: When I first heard the bird, I figured that I was closing in on my first Plumbeous Vireo of the year (I saw that about ten minutes later.). Song is very similar to that of a Plumbeous Vireo and certainly reflects the typical vireo pattern.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: Mixed Gambel Oak/Ponderosa Pine, with grassy elements nearby. Flowing creek within 50 yards of where the bird was found. Ponderosas in area were fairly tall as these trees go, and mostly mature.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILAR SPECIES: Solitary Vireo complex all eliminated by the bright yellow breast, greenish yellow head, and yellow spectacles. Pine Warbler eliminated by size of bird, shape of bill, spectacles, song, and absence of streaking on flanks. Yellow-breasted Chat eliminated by size, yellow spectacles, behavior, song, and wingbars. No other species seem particularly close.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR BIRDS: I have seen a Yellow-throated Vireo only once before, in Michigan. I am quite familiar with the Solitary Vireo complex and Yellow-breasted Chat, less so with the Pine Warbler.

REFERENCES CONSULTED: Peterson's 3rd edition Western Birds (in field), Nat'l Geo 2nd edition (at home)

DATE OF REPORT: 5/15/99

SIGNATURE: