

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

CFO-ORC FILE # 2001-121

NEW STATE RECORD _____ UNUSUAL RECORD X

Species: Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*)

rec'd 12/9/01

Date: 22 April 2001 **Number seen:** one **Sex:** ? **Plumage:** ?

Locality: Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement **Elevation:** about 3870'

Nearest town: Ft. Lyon **County:** Bent

Time observed: mid-morning

Duration of observation: off and on for about 5 minutes

Description: Larry and I arrived at Ft. Lyon Wildlife Easement to find Mark Janos' car in the parking area, so we knew that Mark and Brandon were there. I called Brandon on the radio and Mark responded that we ought to get our butts to the 'Tornado Grove' as the two of them had a large number of 'good' birds, including a Yellow-throated Vireo (YTVI). Larry and I drove into the Tornado Grove and hurried to where they were on the east side of the Grove. We eventually both got to see the bird well.

The YTVI was a largish vireo that appeared a bit rotund; at least, it wasn't sleek like most warblers and some vireos. The bird foraged in the canopy and was much more methodical than the warblers it was with (Blue-winged, Yellow-rumped, N. Parula), spending time perched and searching the leaves above it. The bird had a greeny head with bright yellow spectacles surrounding dark eyes, a dark loreal stripe, and yellow chin and throat. I did not see the upperparts well, but the back seemed darker than the crown. The wings were dark gray and sported two substantial white wingbars (tips of median and greater secondary coverts). The black secondaries and, particularly, tertials had distinct, white fringes. The breast was bright yellow, the belly and undertail coverts were white, but the flanks were pale gray. The underparts were completely devoid of any patterning with a darker coloration, as most confusion species would have. The tail was dark gray and lacked tail spots. The bluish-gray bill was thick, typical of a vireo, and hooked. The legs also were bluish-gray.

Similar species eliminated by description: The main confusion species is Pine Warbler, but that species has vague to distinct streaking on the sides and flanks in any plumage that could be confused with YTVI. Additionally, that species sports white tail spots and different-colored legs and bill. All other warblers are also eliminated on bill shape and color and on leg color. Cassin's Vireo is eliminated on underparts coloration and pattern and on spectacle color. All other vireos that are yellow underneath have at least vague eyelines and do not have yellow spectacles.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): I did not hear this bird.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly-appearing species? I have seen >75 YTVIs and 10s to 100s of all other North American confusion species.

Light conditions: sun variously to my right and behind me

Optical equipment used: Swarovski 8.5x42

Distance, and how estimated: estimated closest distance at ~7 meters

Other observers who saw the bird with you: Brandon Percival, Mark Janos, Larry Semo

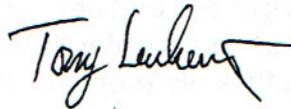
Other observers who saw the bird independently: Doug Faulkner, Andrew Spencer, at least

If photographed, type of equipment and film: I did not photograph; I think Larry videotaped it

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none **b) after observation:** none

Reporting observer: Tony Leukering **Signature:**



Address: Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO 80601

Date report was written: 9 December 2001 from brief notes I wrote the evening of the sighting

Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

(This is a two-page report. Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!

CFO-RC FILE X: **2001-121**

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name): **YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** (Scientific Name) **Vireo flavifrons**

Date(s) of occurrence: **April 22, 2001**

Number of birds seen: **One** Sex: **Unknown** Plumage: **Adult**

Exact Location: **Fort Lyons State Wildlife Area**

County: **Bent** Nearest town: **Fort Lyons** Elevation:

Length of observation: **Roughly three minutes** Time(s) of observation: **Morning (around 11 AM)**

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: **Mark Janos, Brandon Percival, Tony Leukering**

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): **Mark Janos and Brandon Percival (earlier on the same morning).**

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): **Good. Bird was to northwest with sun to east. Bird was near top of trees most of time.**

Optical equipment used: **7X40 Zeiss Bins**

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): **Varied. Bird was as close as roughly 50 feet.**

Was bird(s) photographed? **Yes (video)** If so, have you submitted photos? **Yes, stills from video and video itself.**

Who took the photographs? **Myself**

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: **Woodland**

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification):
Actively foraged in trees.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

Having been notified of the presence of a Yellow-throated Vireo at Fort Lyons SWA by Mark Janos and Brandon Percival, Tony and I arrived at the north-central portion of the site and soon refound the vireo foraging high in cottonwoods. The bird was larger than typical warblers, being stockier, slower in movement, and possessing a shorter, thicker, gray bill with slightly drooped, hooked tip. The following are other characteristics noted during the observation:

Head – mostly a yellowish green, especially on the crown, hindneck, and face. The lores were much brighter yellow and this yellow extended thinly posteriorly to the eyes and encircled the eye almost as an eye-ring. There was a thin, black loreal line that extended from the base of the bill posterior to the black eye. The throat was also a bright yellow.

Breast, flanks, belly, and vent – The breast was bright yellow and extended posteriorly midway through the body, ending abruptly in a relative straight line bordering the whitish-gray belly and flanks. The vent was a brighter white.

Upperparts – The mantle was a greenish-olive and closely matched the tone of the nape and crown. The wings were a bluish-gray and contained two narrow, white wingbars along the greater and median coverts. The uppertail coverts were gray.



Tail – The tail appeared bluish-gray, similar in shade to the basal pattern of the wings.

Legs – gray.



Describe bird's call or song: **None heard.**

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: **The combination of thick bill, olive-yellow crown, nape, back, and scapulars, yellow throat and upper breast, yellow spectacles with black eye and black lores, white belly, and bluish wings with two white wingbars is diagnostic of Yellow-throated Vireo.**

Plumage pattern is most similar to that of Blue-winged Warbler. Blue-winged Warbler was easily eliminated by its smaller size, thinner, more pointed bill, more distinct black eyeline, and bright yellow belly and flanks. The overall yellowish head, neck and breast pattern and blue wings with white wingbars on the subject vireo eliminated all other vireos.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? **Extensive. Have observed hundreds in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Michigan. This was my first Colorado sighting.**

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

This report is from notes made during _____ or after **XX** observation or later _____ from memory

Date of written report: **10/14/01**

Reporting observer: **Larry Semo**

Signature:

Reporting Observer's Address: **9054 Dover Street**

City: **Westminster**

State: **Colorado**

Zip: **80021**

**Send report to:
Colorado Birds Record Committee
c/o Tony Leukering
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory**