

7-0 (A) 2004-25
rec'd 6/25/04**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)**Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**

CBRC FILE #:

RESULTS:

Species: (Common Name) Yellow-throated Vireo

(Scientific Name) Vireo flavifrons

Date(s) of occurrence: May 26, 2004

Number of birds seen: One

Sex: Assume male because the bird sang for an extended period of time.

Plumage: Adult plumage

Exact location: Yellowjacket Canyon between Moccasin Canyon and Risley Canyon

County: Montezuma

Nearest town: Cortez

Elevation: 5,080 feet

Length of observation: 20 minutes

Time(s) of observation: 9:55 AM – 10:15 AM

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Peter Derven

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observers position: Lighting was very good.

Optical equipment used: Swarovski 8 x 42 binoculars

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): Probably 40 or 50 meters.

Was (Were) bird(s) photographed? No

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Tall cottonwood riparian habitat that dissects semi-desert terrain and Pinyon & Juniper woodland.

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits: The bird was singing and also chattering. Movements were slow and deliberate. He moved only short distances to nearby branches.

DESCRIPTION -- This is the most important part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. No other birds were in the immediate area for a size comparison, but the size and shape seemed similar to that of a Plumbeous Vireo. As with other vireos, the head was proportionally large in relation to the overall size of the bird. The forehead, face, crown, and nape were a greenish-yellow. The bird had "spectacles" which were yellow. The throat was yellow. The yellow color of the throat extended down to include the chest. The belly was white. The back was greenish-yellow, slightly greener than the head. The wings were a very dark gray to black with 2 prominent, white wing bars. The bill was thick and black.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: It was obvious that the bird was a vireo because of the song, although, prior to seeing the bird, I was assuming that the singer was a Plumbeous Vireo. In addition, the bird was making a chattering noise that I associated with an oriole. Only after seeing & identifying the bird did I realize that the chattering sounds were part of the vireo's vocalizations.

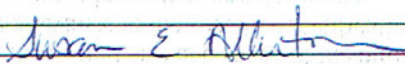
SIMILAR SPECIES -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration: The fact that the bird was a vireo was clear before seeing the bird. It was obviously a vireo singing. A visually similar species would be Pine Warbler, but the song alone eliminated that possibility. The vireo had no streaking on the underparts; the yellow spectacles were quite distinct. The overall shape of the bird agreed with that of a vireo rather than a warbler.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I have seen Yellow-throated Vireo in the past.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how these influenced your identification (during and after observation):
The Sibley Guide to Birds was consulted.This report was made from (check one) ☒ notes made during observation ☐ notes made after observation ☐ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: 6/15/04

Reporting observer: Susan E. Allerton

Signature: 

Reporting observer's address: 61 Newland Circle

City: Durango

State: Colorado

Zip: 81301

Send report to:
Colorado Bird Records Committee
Tony Leukering
PO Box 660
Brighton, CO 80601

Record No.

22344

Notes

This came as a total surprise! First Susan Allerton and I heard a typical Plum- beous Vireo voice coming from tall cotton- woods on the other side of the creek; almost every song-phase was followed by an oriole- like chatter, so were thought we were listening to two different birds. When we located the vireo, its back was toward us about 30 feet or more high in a large cottonwood. Bold white wingbars on dark wings were the most obvious feature. It turned its head to look over its shoulder, and

rec'd
5/28/04

Code YTVI

C Name Yellow-throated Vireo

S Name *Vireo flavifrons*

How Many?

Date

5/26/04

City Cortez

St/Prov

CO

Co

Montezuma

Nation

USA

Place

Yellowjacket Creek

Habitat

Desert riparian

Area ABA

Tag

West

Flag 1

Flag 2

More Notes

that's when we both saw the yellow throat! Hardly believing our eyes, and simultaneously thinking it might be a trick of light this flawless, sunny morning around 10AM, we continued to examine the bird. In a few moments it shifted position, turning sideways and continued to sing. In full open profile, both in sun and shadow, it showed brilliant yellow on the sides of its face, eye-rings and lores, throat and breast to the middle of the belly; then it was pure white posteriorly to vent. We both realized that this male bird, on finishing the song phrase so typical of Plumbeous Vireo to be emanating the chatter phrase as well, a sound reminiscent both of Bullock's Oriole and certain scolding notes of some wrens. We watched the bird a full 15 minutes move across the grove of trees before slipping back into the canopy from which it continued to sing. Susan and I are both aware of the importance of this sighting as perhaps a first for west-slope Colorado after checking the Sibley guides and Andrews and Richter. I'd add that I am very familiar with the species having birded NY's Hudson Valley for thirty years and more, and Susan knows the bird from her Pennsylvania days.



Mr. Peter C. Derven
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