

Species: Philadelphia Vireo
(Vernacular name)

(1981)
Vireo philadelphicus
(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): October 10, 1981

Time Bird Seen: 10:45 AM to 11:05 AM

Locality: Brown's Creek (Side Creek of Roubidoux Drainage) 4-5 miles SW of Blanding
Blanding, San Juan County, Utah Utah where unpaved Ro
Nearest town, county and state: Crosses Creek

Optical equipment: Nikon 8x30 binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: Adult - full

Light conditions: Excellent, sun behind observer 80% of time, NO clouds

Distance from bird, and how measured: 20-50 feet, most of time. observation from
30-40 feet.

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

At first, bird was moving about (feeding?) on ground, along side of unpaved road. When a truck approached from other direction, bird flew across road into piñon-juniper; immediately after truck passed, bird flew back across road to riparian bottom land, where bird remained for the rest of the time feeding very actively on insects in 3-4 feet high rabbit brush. Bird usually gleaned one bush thoroughly in 2-5 minutes before going to adjacent bush. Bird gleaned much of time like a chickadee upside down on branches of bush while searching for insects. (See Audubon Field No. 952 for such behavior)

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Basic canyon riparian. Small stream and wet area in bottom of canyon. A few trees. Above banks vegetation turned to rabbit brush and piñon-juniper. Along bottom lots of grass and rabbit brush.

Other observers who independently identified this bird. (Please list name and address)

Tim Helentjaris, 1721 S. 500 East, SEC, Utah. (Tim originally spotted bird, saw bird with me for 1st 5 minutes only)

arks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

Size of eastern wood warbler - appeared slimmer than solitary or warbling v. Head, crown - gray, with light white eye strip above eye and dusky gray-b. eyeline through eye. The line in front of eye did not form a distinct "line". The eye line was only thickened in front of eye. Eye itself dark. Bill large for a warbler, but hook on tip of bill not seen. Back of bird from head to tip of tail bright olive-green. Wings also olive green with no hint of wing bar. Underside of tail had no white spots on tips. Legs dark. Throat and upper $\frac{1}{3}$ of underside completely light yellow, middle $\frac{1}{3}$ of underside (abdomen) completely white, bottom $\frac{1}{3}$ of underside ~~to~~ including undertail coverts bright yellow. No streaks visible anywhere on underside of bird.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

None

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Orange crowned warbler - not really a possibility in my mind due to unstreaked breast and area of white on belly. Also the bright yellow on ventral surface much too pure yellow (vs. yellow-green of orange crowned). ~~Tennessee warbler~~ Head also gray not in orange crowned.

Tennessee warbler - ~~Head also gray~~

- (1) Under tail of bird bright yellow, Tennessee white
- (2) Breast of bird yellow, only $\frac{1}{2}$ and immature Tennessee have any yellow on breast and these forms in fall do not have solid gray crown.
- (3) Behavior not like Tennessee i.e. proving on ground & feeding upside down like chickadees.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Very familiar with orange crowned warbler and Tennessee warbler. I have seen hundreds of spring and fall individuals of both species in east and midwest. I saw Philadelphia vireo once before in central Wisconsin in spring.

This report was written from notes made during X after X observation; from memory

NAME (print): Mark Leppert

Mailing address: 1466 Westminster Ave, SLC, Utah 84105

Signature: Mark F. Leppert