

15-1986

- Jon L. Dunn

13-1986
13 Sept. 1986Species: Red-eyed Vireo (Vireo olivaceus)

Location: oasis near Promontory, Utah

Date: 26 Aug. 1986; about 10:00 a.m.

Observers: JLD, Ella D. Sorensen

I located this immature high above in the trees on the Thikol ranch property. I 1st noted the apparent large size and the large bill. I also felt the wings were particularly long, extending nearly to the tip of the tail. I became convinced of the identification when I noted the black transocular line that ran from behind the eye to the base of the bill. I saw this on several occasions. I also noted once the diagnostic black line on the sides of the crown which further highlighted the prominent white eyebrow. The underparts were quite white, except for a pale yellow wash on the undertail coverts. The crown had some gray, but was not seen well since views were mainly from below. The back appeared to be a dark shade of green, but this was better noted by Sorensen. The crown appeared flat, but this was probably due to the larger bill (than a Warbling). The bird was overall quite sluggish in its movements. We had the bird off and on under observation for about five minutes.

I am completely convinced of the identification. The only real candidate for confusion is the Warbling Vireo, several of which were also present. This bird was clearly larger with a longer bill and a flatter crown. The face pattern also eliminates Warbling. Warbling has pale lores and lacks the black line on the sides of the crown. I also felt that the wings were much longer on this bird in comparison to the Warblings which contributed to the apparent shape differences.