

# Utah Ornithological Society

## Verification of Unusual Sight Record for Utah

Common Name: WHITE-EYED VIREO Scientific Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: 7/31/99 Time: 11:30a-12:00p Length of Time Observed: 5 minutes  
 Number: 1 Age: Adult Sex: Not known  
 Location: Calf Creek Recreation Area east of Escalante, Utah  
 Lat/long: On the Lower Falls Trail near stop 18 Elevation: 5300'  
 Distance to Bird: 30' using 10x40 power Leitz binoculars.  
 Weather: Sunny with scattered clouds  
 Light Conditions: Good

*Vireo size!!*  
 Detail Description of Bird: Bird appeared to be in somewhat worn plumage but I observed clearly the definitive field mark for this species i.e. black center of eye surrounded by white and very distinguishable yellow lores. Heavier bill than a warbler, methodical movements. I don't recall distinct wing bars as I made the id by looking at the head. Being from East Texas this species is an "every day" bird.  
 Song or Call and Method of Delivery: I "pished" the bird out and he responded immediately. He was in a Gambel's Oak on the right side of the trail heading toward the falls but before you get into the lush part of the canyon.

Behavior: The bird responded to my pish, seemed somewhat interested in me and stayed in the same tree the whole time I was observing him. I never saw him fly. I proceeded up the trail but did not look for the bird on the way back. I didn't (but should have!) made the connection that this was a rare species for where I was observing it. McIvor's book emphasized this to me.  
 Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

Similar Species and How Were They Eliminated: None of the other vireo species that I observed in the immediate area have the white eye or yellow lores. I observed Plumbeous and Warbling Vireo in Calf Creek and Gray Vireo later in Capitol Reef NP.

Previous Experience with this and Similar Species: Lots! This species is one of the most common woodland birds in the Eastern half of Texas, it usually always responds to pishing if one is around. I usually mark them off by call and go on. The bird in Calf Creek never made sound.

References Consulted: NGS Field Guide and the new All the Birds on the US guide.

Description From:

\_\_\_\_ Notes Taken at Time of Sighting ☒ Notes Made Later ☒ From Memory  
 Observer: RHANDY J. HELTON Signature: Rhandy J. Helton  
 Address: Route 7 Box 11-2  
 City: Jasper State: Texas Zip: 75951  
 Other Observers who Independently Identified this Bird: None

Date Prepared: 8/10/99 (didn't arrive back in Tx. until late 8/7/99)

Additional Material: \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_\_\_ Tape \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Return This Form To: Utah Rare Bird Committee, 3868 Marsha Dr., West Valley City, UT 84120

*Sorry, no photo. My camera would not have been good enough anyway!*