

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM

1. Species: Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii*
2. Number: one, age and sex unknown
3. Locality: Louisiana; Cameron Parish; entrance road to West Jetty before reaching the camps
4. Date: 18 December 2004 (Sabine CBC)
5. Time: 0805 cst through 0820 cst
6. Reporting observer: B. Mac. Myers III, 5660 Ada Pl.--rear apt., New Orleans, LA 70124
7. Accompanying observers: R. Dan Purrington
8. Independent observers: none
9. Light conditions: very good, the sun was still low and was behind our backs
10. Optics: 10x42 Eagle binocs in excellent condition
11. Distance: at times less than 15 ft., mostly 25 ft. to perhaps 65-70 ft.
12. Duration: about 15 minutes, and unlike what is usually the case with this species, the bird was actually visible most of the time
13. Habitat: the edge of a brushy area with some taller trees: specifically used honeysuckle thicket, rose clump, mixed vegetation, and fairly small sugarberry tree
14. Behavior: it popped up in response to tape of Eastern Screech-Owl, as did several other small birds: RC Kinglet, gnatcatcher, etc. It was very active, apparently foraging, moving about from as low as one foot above ground to perhaps 15-18 feet up in sugarberry. Hopped and flitted about, flipping tail fairly frequently.
15. Description: When it first appeared, it was quite close, less than 20 feet, and I recognized it immediately and called to Dan. Smallish, warbler/vireo sized bird, larger than kinglet. The back was fairly bright olive green. The nape, crown and sides of the face were light-medium gray. The bird had a white eyering along with a white spot or short dash in the lores ; below this white spot/dash was a short gray dash/line in the lores. The bill was not as heavy as some vireos. The eyes were dark. The wings were sort of olive-gray; there

was a very faint whitish wingbar, and posterior to it was a fairly prominent white wingbar. The chin, throat, and breast were whitish-very pale ash gray. The flanks and undertail coverts were pale yellow, seemingly brighter on the undertail coverts. It seemed to me to be a typical or "normal" eastern type bird; it was not nearly as bright as the one collected by Cardiff about six weeks earlier. Purrington attempted to photograph it with a digital camera and also videotaped it. According to him, he didn't get anything. We looked for the bird on two occasions later in the day, but with no luck.

16. Voice: silent

17. This species superficially resembles several others. But in its own subtle way it is distinctive. The combination of its general color, vireo bill, wingbar(s), and especially the facial pattern are diagnostic. And the active, tail-flipping behavior is also typical.

18. Photographs: Dan attempted both still digital and video, apparently without any success.

19. Previous experience: about a half dozen in LA, including one six weeks earlier collected by Cardiff; scores of western type birds in W. Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

20. Aids: none at the time

21. Description made from notes taken in the field immediately after observation, while still hoping/trying to relocate the bird.

22. Yes, I am positive of the identification.

23. Signature *B. Mac, Meyer III*

24. 29 December 2004, 1045 cst.