

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Black-capped Vireo *Vireo atricapilla*

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 individual

3. Parish: St. John the Baptist

Specific Locality: 1.1 miles south of the Ruddock exit on I-55 in the tree line between Hwy 51 and the raised interstate

4. Date(s) when observed: 4/21/2020

5. Time(s) of day when observed: 9 am

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Jane Patterson
City: Ponchatoula
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): none

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Bird was first seen in shadow through a hole in vegetation, but subsequently was in plain view in good light about 30 feet from me for several minutes (long enough for photos and video).

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Viewed first with binoculars (Nikon Monarch 8x42) and then photographed with Panasonic Lumix GH5 with 100-400 lens.

11. Distance to bird(s): First view at 10 feet (in vegetation) and then at 30 feet in clear

view.

12. Duration of observation: First view was just a second. Second view lasted 3-4 minutes

13. Habitat: Mixed hardwood vegetation; sugarberry, roughleaf dogwood, wax myrtle, willow, poison ivy and other scrubby vegetation

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): First responded briefly to mob tape (screech owl with other birds fussing) and then responded to playback of BCVI by sitting on branch and looking around and singing.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): In first view (in vegetation) I only saw the head & face. I could see a dark head/face with bright white "spectacles" surrounding the eye. The body looked greenish. Then when I refound the bird, I could see the entire thing, both front and back. Back was all olive green and the wing feathers looked very "fresh" – the edges were very distinct. The throat and chest/belly were bright white with lemony yellow on the sides/flanks. The head was entirely definitely black, which made the white spectacles really stand out. The bill was typical for a vireo, but not large. The bird seemed small for a vireo, too.

16. Voice: I recorded a video and you can hear it singing (somewhat hindered by traffic noise)

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Clearly not a white-eyed vireo. The head looked too dark and the bird too small for a Blue-headed vireo (which usually descends from overhead in a tree, not skulking down in vegetation).

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): 15 photos and video will be provided

19. Previous experience with this species: None. Not 100% sure how I even knew what it was but I immediately did. I stopped the mob tape, checked the iBird Plus app for Black-capped vireo and then began playing the recordings in loop mode.

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: iBird Plus

b. after observation: Shared with Van Remsen, Oscar Johnson, Matt Brady, Dan Lane, Donna Dittman, and Steven Cardiff who concurred with identification.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: Yes

23. Date: 4/22/2020

Time: 10 pm

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

__yes_____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _yes._____









