

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

1. English and Scientific names: Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*.
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 presumed adult male.
3. Louisiana - Parish: Jefferson
Specific Locality: Grand Isle State Park Coordinates: 29.2609432,-89.9524498
4. Date(s) when observed: 06-13-2015 and 06-18-2015.
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
11:00-11:45 and 13:10-13:30 on 06-13, and 08:02-08:32 on 06-18.
6. Reporting observer and address:

Nancy L Newfield
Casa Colibrí
3016 45th Street
Metairie, LA 70001
504-338-3882
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): Kevin Morgan on 06-13-2015 and Stephen M Locke on 06-18-2015. Originally discovered by Erik Johnson and previously observed by numerous observers who posted details on the LABIRD-L listserv, facebook LABIRD, and eBird.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Sun overhead in a nearly cloudless sky. However, the bird mostly remained below the canopy during the first encounter on 06-13. His behavior was similar on 06-18, but the light was coming from the east. Still conditions for observing were excellent.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski 10 x 42 EL Swarovision, excellent condition.
11. Distance to bird(s): 25 to 30 feet.

12. Duration of observation: Total observation time 65 minutes.

13. Habitat: Persimmon [*Diospyros sp*] grove at edge of roadway, surrounded by coastal scrub, Elderberry [*Sambucus canadensis*], and other plants not specifically identified.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

During the 65 minutes we were present, the bird was singing except for a brief period when he chased a male Red-winged Blackbird. The blackbird had not approached the vireo closely and it did not seem to threaten the vireo. It just flew past and was immediately pursued. However, we did not see any physical contact.

Most of the time, the vireo sang from a somewhat bare twig that was sheltered well below the canopy of the Persimmon, but with some clear area surrounding it. Once we recognized the type of song perch the bird preferred, he was not especially difficult.

On the second date, the vireo sang persistently, but we observed him catching and consuming small green caterpillars. At one point, he flew across LA 1 and landed in the chain link fence of the camp. He remained there only momentarily before returning to the Persimmon. He did not seem to be in pursuit of any other bird.

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*):

This bird was a small, 6 inch, songbird that showed a gray crown with a dull whitish supercilium that was separated from the crown by a narrow darker gray line. The back was greenish-grayish brown as were the wings and tail. The face and underparts, including undertail coverts, were cool light buff with a wash of yellow on the face, flanks, and undertail coverts. A narrow patch of broken and missing feathers [with several pinfeathers emerging] extending across the upper breast was mentioned by Steve W Cardiff in a LABIRD-L post and we also noted that feature to assure ourselves that we were viewing the same individual.

The longish, vireo bill was dark horn-color, overlaid with dark gray extending from the culmen. The eyes were dark red and the legs were dark gray. The size and color of the bill, the narrow dark gray line separating the gray crown from the whitish supercilium, and the extensive wash of yellow on the face and underparts, and the lack of a dark malar streak eliminated both Red-eyed Vireo and Black-whiskered Vireo from consideration.

On the second date, I did not notice any additional plumage characteristics.

16. Voice:

The song was a series of scratchy, but rich chirps strung together and repeated almost endlessly.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

The size and color of the bill, the narrow dark gray line separating the gray crown from the whitish supercilium, and the extensive wash of yellow on the face and underparts, and the lack of a dark malar streak eliminated both Red-eyed Vireo and Black-whiskered Vireo from consideration.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): None

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have seen and heard this species a few times in extreme southern Texas [Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge], and several times in Costa Rica [especially Parque National Santa Rosa].

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

National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* [6th edition, 2nd printing]
The Sibley Guide to Birds [2nd edition]
Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

The above field guides were used both before and after the observation insofar as this was a staked out rarity.

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<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: 06-14-2015

Time: 15:00 Edited 06-20-2015 at 13:04

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? Yes.

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