

## RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION FORM

Philadelphia Vireo

**OBSERVER:** Julie V. Van Moorhem                      **DATE:** August 10, 1992  
**DATE OF OBSERVATION:** August 8, 1992              **TIME:** 1900-1930, approximately  
**WEATHER:** Hot, sunny                                      **SKY COVER:** Clear

**DURATION OF OBSERVATION:** 15-30 minutes, off and on

**BIRD-SUN ORIENTATION:** Bird in south, sun in west; light excellent for color "trueness"

**LOCATION:** North 12th Street, west of I-80, south of railroad tracks, Ogden, Utah

**HABITAT:** Riparian woodland--cottonwood and box elder trees predominant, brush and shrubs, river and pond nearby

**OTHER OBSERVERS:** Dana Green, David Wheeler

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT:** Binoculars, all observers; J. Van Moorhem: 7X35 Nikon

**SPECIES:** Philadelphia Vireo                              **NUMBER, AGE, SEX:** one, sexes same

**DISTANCE FROM BIRD:** 25-30 feet

**RELATIVE SIZE OF BIRD:** about 5 inches

**HEAD AND NECK:** Blue-gray head to nape

**EYES & LORES:** Dark eye; prominent dark line extending from lores through and beyond eye to ear patch area--line was extremely noticeable from lores to ear; prominent creamy to white colored eyebrow

**UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES:** dark, vireo shape: thick and sort of blunt at end, not thin like a warbler

**LEGS & FEET:** Not noticed

**UPPERPARTS:** Nape and back olive green, tail dark

**UNDERPARTS:** throat, breast, belly, flanks strong, fairly bright yellow; lower belly faded to paler yellow and then became brighter yellow in undertail coverts; lighter color on belly was a pale yellow and diffuse, not a white band like a Nashville warbler.

**RETRICES:** Tail dark, no white on tail feathers

**WING:** Dark, no wing bars

**VOCALIZATION:** None

**BEHAVIOR:** Slow, deliberate foraging in leaves for insects; occasionally hanging upside down like a chickadee; not flitting about like a warbler; usually about 25 feet up in tree but occasionally just 3-5 feet from ground in low-hanging branches

**FIELD MARKS used to separate from similar species:** creamy white eyebrow, not white eye-ring as in the Nashville warbler; also, eyeline much more prominent and dark than the eye "smudge-line" of the warbling vireo; blue-gray cap and very dark back and tail distinguished from warbling vireo's tan and white appearance; no white band across belly near feet as in Nashville warbler, more vibrant yellow than Nashville warbler; slow, deliberate foraging behavior not warbler-like; overall appearance: vireo-shape, fairly stocky, head rounder than warbling vireo's which appears to be peaked or crested; face much more patterned and colorful than warbling vireo's; warbling vireos and Nashville warblers were in this same area and allowed for good comparisons.

**EXPERIENCE WITH BIRD:** No experience with the Philadelphia vireo, but a great deal of experience with other vireos, i.e., warbling vireo, red-eyed vireo, white-eyed vireo, and yellow-throated vireo in other states. I knew immediately that this was a vireo and that I had never seen it before. One of the observers had seen Philadelphia vireos in the east, some as recently as April 1992, and knew as soon as the field marks became apparent that it was a Philadelphia vireo. Beak and behavior rule out warblers. Some early migrant warblers were seen in this area at the same time so the Philadelphia seems to be part of the early fall migration. Warblers and other passerines do migrate this early and particularly since the spring migration was early this year, this is not too early for this bird. My experience with Nashville warblers, two of which were seen in this same area on this same date, allows me to definitely rule out this warbler due to reasons sighted above.