

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common name: yellow throated vireo      Scientific name: Vireo flavifrons

Date: May 8, 1997    Time: 1:45 p.m.      Length of time observed: 10 minutes

Number: 1      Age: adult      Sex: male

Location: 288 West 725 North  
Logan, Utah 84321

Lat/long: *Lat 41.7° Long 111.5°*      Elevation: *4,300 ft.*

Distance to bird: 30 feet      Light conditions: dappled sunlight/open shade

Optical equipment: 8x23 Nikon binoculars

Weather: clear and sunny

Description: This bird flew into my apple tree and lit on the feeder. I put the binoculars on it because it obviously wasn't an American Goldfinch, though it was approximately the same size. But it had no black 'cap' on the forehead and seemed to be darker on its back. It had a bright yellow throat and a slightly paler yellow breast. The back and rump were gray and it had two white bars on each wing.

This bird had a black vireo-shaped bill, a bright yellow throat and white wing-bars. It had obvious "yellow spectacles" around its eyes, and these markings were emphasized by dark olive color on the top and sides of the head, which was the same color as the back of the head and shoulders.

For part of the 10 minutes I watched this bird, it shared the feeder with a white-crowned sparrow, which was approximately the same size.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: Not observed.

Behavior: Perched in apple tree and at feeder (stocked with a commercial finch mix)

Habitat: Shady, residential back yard that opens onto 6.5 acres of open pasture. Apple, maple, Russian olive and aspen trees.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Lesser Goldfinch — This was my first thought because of the darker head and back, plus the wing bars. But my bird had a dark, top-slightly-curved bill and yellow eye rings.

Pine Warbler — My bird had a heavier bill than a warbler and no streaking on its underparts. Also, from pictures it appears the warbler's eye marking is more of a streak above the eye. My bird had definite "spectacles."

What experience have you had with this and similar species?

No experience with Yellow Throated Vireo. Have seen other vireos (Red-Eyed and Solitary) and Lesser Goldfinch occasionally. Have never seen a Pine Warbler.

I'm an experienced birder and run the Hotline for Bridgerland Audubon Society.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted:

Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds (always the first at hand)  
The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding, Vol. 3 (best photo of bird I saw)  
Stokes Field Guide to Birds (no reference at all, or to Pine Warbler)

Additional material: None

Description from notes taken at time of sighting  notes made later \_\_\_ from memory

Observer: Nancy Williams

Signature:

*Nancy Williams*  
753-6268

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Other observers who independently identified this bird: None

Date prepared: May 13, 1997