

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Solitary Vireo 2. Number: two

3. Location Brookside Park in Ames, Story County, Iowa

4. Date: 27 October 1982 5. Time Bird seen: 1st 2:45 ~~2nd~~ 2:47

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

The first one was just a typical Solitary Vireo. blue-gray head with white specticles and olivish back - darker wings and tail with two prominent white wing bars - white throat and breast.

The second was strange - no contrast at all between head and back - all gray above; no trace whatever of olivish. white eye ring and specticles perhaps a bit narrower than average for Solitary Vireo. prominent white wing bars. white throat and breast. The head wasn't bluish at all like a regular Solitary Vireo.

7. Description of voice, if heard: neither heard

8. Description of behavior: typical 'sluggish' vireo

9. Habitat - general: woods
specific: woods (bottomland) a lot of trails. most of trees lost 3/4 or more

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, ^{of leaves} Explain:
Yellow Throated Vireo - specticles not yellow; throat not yellow
White Eyed Vireo - specticles not yellow (they both had dark eyes, as does imm. White Eye)
Bell's Vireo - specticles wider - prominent white wing bars

11. Distance (how measured)? from first; 15 feet estimate
from second; 20 feet

12. Optical equipment:
8 X 50 binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
overcast - yet light quite good. 1st; sun wd have been to right a little. Sec: off to the

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: left quite a ways: was
Have seen more than 100 Solitary Vireos this Fall. Have seen overcast enuf that sun

15. Other observers: White Eyed at close range once. Gotten a glimpse direction not much of a
none of Bell's several times in S Dakota and Kansas. factor, yet because so

16. Did the others agree with your identification? many of the leaves were
off, light was fairly
good.

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
A Field Guide to the Birds Peterson

A Field Guide to the Western Birds Peterson

Birds of North America Golden Press

I was greatly puzzled by the gray one, but all things considered I don't really see
how it could have been anything else.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Two hours

Signature

Paul Marteling

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Date: 27 October 1982 City, State: Ames, Iowa

Typed this up only because sighting was so late.