

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

Late Sighting

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Philadelphia Vireo 2. Number: one
3. Location Ames ( Brookside Park) Story County, Iowa
4. Date: 3 October 1982 5. Time Bird seen: about 10 Am to maybe a half minute.
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):  
vireo; head, back wings, and tail - grayish. breast yellow fading out toward belly. dark mark from beak to eye; somewhat of a light 'eyebrow' line. No wing bars.  
The yellow on breast was not confined to the sides but went all the way across.
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: foraging in branches of smallish tree.
9. Habitat - general: woods  
specific: in smallish (20-25 ft) tree by creek
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:  
Orange Crown Warbler - sometimes quite gray in Fall, but don't have yellow breast.  
Tennessee Warbler; has thinner bill; greenish instead of gray; doesn't have yellow breast.  
Warbling Vireo - dark mark between bill and eye; yellow all the way across breast.  
Red Eyed Vireo - <sup>this bird was</sup> grayish not greenish; eye stripe not prominent or outlined with black; yellow breast.  
Yellow Throated Vireo - didn't have spectacles; didn't have wing bars.
11. Distance (how measured)? the palest Nashville's have eye rings
12. Optical equipment: 8 x 50 binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
sunny sun to my back as I faced bird
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Have seen all the above mentioned species this Spring & Fall; saw a total of 7 more
15. Other observers: Philadelphia Vireos this Fall before this one.
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
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  
Birds of North America Golden Press  
6 of the 8 Philadelphia Vireos I saw this Fall were at least as yellow breasted as the Yellowest picture in either book. The other two including this one were somewhat yellower than the 'light' pictures.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
about two hours.

Address: 1120 Marston

Signature

Date: 31 October

City, State: Ames, Iowa 50010