

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

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Bell's Vireo 2. Number: one
3. Location Brookside Park - Ames - Story County - Iowa
4. Date: 5 May 1984 5. Time Bird seen: around 8:30 to abt one 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):
larger than Ruby Crowned Kinglet: A Ruby Crowned Kinglet was about 3 feet from it on same limb for a short time. Grayish above; whitish below; two definite but not prominent wing bars; whitish eye ring extending somewhat toward beak. In general rather non-descript. Eye ring definite but not prominent like Solitary Vireo.
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: acted like vireo; sluggish compared to Ruby-Crowned Kinglets & warblers.
9. Habitat - general: low land woods
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet is smaller; more active; wing bars more prominent. Warbling Vireo & Philadelphia Vireos do not have wing bars; don't have eye rings. Solitary vireo is bigger; more prominent spectacles; back greenish; wing bars more prominent. Orange Crowned & Tennessee Warblers don't have eye ring or wing bars - are greener.
11. Distance (how measured)? 50 yds guessed 12. Optical equipment: 2x35-bino
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
bird to west - sun to my back
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
seen in South Dakota & Kansas
15. Other observers: Joe Schaffner (bowl) may have seen same bird later.
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
He didn't get as good a look as I did; thought it was probably
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: a Bell's Vireo
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
A Field Guide to the Birds - Peterson
Birds of America - Golden Plover
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? notes at 1/2 hr

Signature: Paul Martens Address: 1120 Marston Ave, Iowa
50010
Date: 6 May 1984 City, State: _____