

Solitary Vireo

20 Dec 1984

northwest of Lost Nation, Clinton Co., IA

*Brian Blevins

IBL 55:12, 29, 57

Record Number: 84-38
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Brian Blevins

REFERENCES

Christmas Bird Count: IBL 55:12

Field Reports: IBL 55:29

Records Committee: IBL 55:57

VOTE: 1-II, 5-III, 1-IV

III, Although a new date by 7 weeks, this species is not surprising as a late migrant. Description is incomplete but reasonably convincing. Did he fail to mention wing bars or not see them?

IV, Possibly correct I.D., but why eyering and not spectacle? Blue-gray head color only slightly noticeable?! What about wing bars and white throat? I have never heard call note of Solitary Vireo and few books mention it; poor viewing condition looking into sun.

III, Tried to locate bird later in day with no luck.

III, Since, often vagrants show up at times differing from local populations this bird could have been a western subspecies especially in light of Mr. Blevins observation that the cap was obscure and not as distinct as a spring Solitary Vireo's cap typically is.

III, I can't really find major fault with the description. Vocalization was heard. Although lighting conditions not perfect, description eliminates other possibilities, at least to my satisfaction.

II, Should have mentioned 'spectacles', white in lores--but only really likely birds are kinglets, and they're different. Light bad, but description is of this species, and its hard to figure what else would be bigger than a chickadee and green in December.

REVOTE (at meeting, 18 May 1985): 6-III, 1-IV

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Solitary Vireo 2. Number of birds: 1
3. Location 3 1/4 miles Northwest of Lest Nation County: Clinton
4. Date: Dec. 20, 1984 5. Time bird seen: 11:38 A.M. to 11:41 A.M.
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 Bird was bigger and more elongate than the chickadees that it was traveling with. The olive-green coloration showed up right away. Noticeable were the distinct eye ring and heavy bill. The bird showed completely different working motions from those of the chickadees; but indicated the motions and feeding patterns of warblers or vireos. Slightly noticeable was the blue-gray cap, but this was not as noticeable as in spring.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Voice was clear sharp single sliding notes, called repeatedly for 3 minutes with approximately 4 to 5 second intervals.
8. Description of behavior: Bird was in association with chickadees, very different though it still seemed to be searching for insects. Thoroughly worked several oaks.
9. Habitat - general: small gully with oaks, orange-orange, shade-bark Hickory, walnut, and a lot of Multiflora Rose, small dried creek.
specific: Leaves were off of the trees except the Bur oaks. Multiflora rose was quite concentrated. Very light snow cover, with moderate breeze.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Warbling and Red-eyed vireo was eliminated by distinct eye-ring and call.
Yellow-throated vireo was eliminated by dark blue-gray head and distinct call.
All warblers were eliminated by heavy bill.
11. Distance (how measured)? 40 feet from observer. Bird was eye-level, though in top of Large Oak.
12. Optical equipment: Picked bird out with eyes then verified with Jason 7X35 Binoculars.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Clear blue sky - sun was very bright. Bird was unfortunately with sun in front. Their silhouette and slight green color could only be recognized.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: Have seen the bird several times. Photographed in spring while working the major migration of solitaires go through in April. As to appearing species: spent a lot of time finding nests on breeding bird surveys.
15. Other observers: Bob Bryant & Julie Haseumiller
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes, they did agree with the identification.
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Peterson's Field Guide (Eastern); Golden Field Guide; National Geographic Field Guide; Peterson's Guide to the Songs of Birds (Eastern North America)
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? Approximately 5 hours after (Same day)

Signature

Brian BlivinsAddress: 2003 East 12th Street

Date

Dec. 20, 1984City, State: Davenport, Iowa

(over)