

RARE OR UNUSUAL BIRD REPORT FOR IDAHO

Species reported: Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*)

Reporter (with address and phone number): Cliff Weisse, 4125 Beaver Springs Rd., Island Park, ID 83429, 208-558-7789

Other Observers (please print): No

Date and time of record: 8/31/2002, late afternoon **Date report prepared:** 11/10/2002

Locality: Pine Butte at approximately UTM 12 434400E 4901321N

Habitat: Brushy hillside with Douglas Firs, Aspens, Chokecherry and Serviceberry thickets.

Conditions: I observed the bird for approximately ten minutes at ranges between 10 and 50 yards. It was partly cloudy but sun was not covered by clouds at time of observation. The bird was sometimes in sunlight sometimes in shadows. I used 10 x 25 Nikon Mountaineer binos.

Description of bird:

- Cap solid blue gray; appeared darker than face
- Supercilium same width not widening noticeably behind eye
- Rump Olive; brighter than back
- Blackish eye line contrasted with white supercilium
- Underparts yellow
- Throat whitish maybe (?) washed with yellow. Breast was yellow.
- Upperparts seemed darker overall than Warbling and more olive/gray
- Head appeared round; not crested at any time
- Undertail coverts yellow
- Breast yellow all the way across

Above is a transcript of actual field notes written before I checked field guides.

The bird was brightest yellow on breast and undertail coverts. I was immediately struck by the contrast of the face, darkness of the cap, yellow underparts, and olive looking back. This bird looked very different from all the Warbling Vireos I've seen right away. I did not notice foraging behavior or any other notable behavior.

Behavior of this bird: The bird was foraging in a Chokecherry thicket and did not sing or call. No interactions with other birds were seen.

List similar species and tell how you eliminated them:

Tennessee Warbler has white undertail coverts, not bright yellow as this bird did. Warbling Vireo has paler, brown/gray back and rump does not contrast. This bird had olive gray back and bright yellow/olive rump that contrasted with tail and back. Cap on Warbling does not contrast as much, in my experience, as it did on this bird. Nor is the cap as blue/gray on Warbling as on this bird. The contrast of the face pattern (blackish eye line and white face) was much more than Warbling Vireo shows, in my experience. Most important the yellow on the underparts of Warbling is brightest on the flanks, not on the breast and undertail coverts as it was on this bird. For these reasons this bird could not have been a Warbling Vireo.

What is your experience with this or similar species?: No prior experience with Philadelphia Vireo but I've seen a handful of Tennessee Warblers and many hundred, if not thousands, of Warbling Vireos.

Were photos obtained?: NO