

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTATION FOR UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

Submitted to Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC)

IORC RECORD  
NUMBER:

This form submitted as supporting documentation of (check all that apply):

Unusual species; \_\_\_ Unusual date; \_\_\_ Unusual number; \_\_\_ Unusual plumage;  
\_\_\_ Unusual breeding record; \_\_\_ Christmas Bird Count record; \_\_\_ Spring Bird Count  
record; \_\_\_ Breeding Census record; \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

1. SPECIES: Cassin's Vireo
2. Number of birds: 1 Age/sex/plumage: unknown -- appeared to be fresh plumage
3. Date(s): 1 September 2000
4. Location (include county): Washington Park, Springfield, Sangamon County, IL
5. Observers: David Bohlen, Beckie Dyer, Vernon Kleen
- 5b. Documentor: Your name: Vernon Kleen  
Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
- Others agreeing with identification: David Bohlen (finder and first identifier of bird on 31 Aug. 01  
Observers NOT agreeing with identification: No one else had seen the bird yet -- so, NONE.
6. Description of bird (size, shape, proportions, details of both color and patterns on head, back, chin, throat, breast, flanks, undertail, wings, and tail, etc.; coloration of soft parts: bill, eye, legs and feet) include only details actually seen in the field:

Head & Nape: light gray (no visible contrast between head and back color);  
Cheek: fading gradually (no major line of demarcation) from gray of head to "off-white" of side of head and throat/belly;  
Back: light gray (no visible contrast between back and head color);  
Wings: light gray (similar to head and back) with two prominent "whitish" wing bars; when the bird was viewed from the rear, the folded wings showed "whitish" edges on the tertials;  
Throat: "off-white" or "cream"-colored -- with a slight hint towards very light yellow;  
Front: More-or-less "cream" or "off-white" colored; definitely not white;  
Belly: Same as Front; definitely not white;  
Sides: except for the flanks, mostly "cream" or "off-white"-colored; no visible yellow  
Flanks: a small patch (about 1/2") at side of legs was a "greenish" yellow color;  
Undertail coverts: Same as throat; "cream" or "off-white" color with a slight hint towards very light yellow;  
Eyering: Spectacles -- pale white; definitely spectacles (not an eyering);  
Eye: dark  
Bill: at times (dependent on light conditions), seemed to be light colored with a "darker" tip;  
Legs: dark;  
Tail: when viewed from underneath, light narrow feather edges were definitely visible.

Basically, there was NO CONSPICUOUS YELLOW on the bird anywhere; the only hint of possible "yellowish" color (not really yellow) on this bird was on the throat, the undertail coverts, and the flanks. NO DARK or BLUE GRAY anywhere and NO CONSPICUOUS GREEN anywhere.

During the observation period we followed the bird from tree to tree for a distance of about 100 meters; the bird was quite cooperative for viewing and was actively feeding in live oak trees from about 6 feet (eyelevel) above ground to about 45-50 feet high (about 2/3 to 3/4 the height of the oak trees). On three occasions we saw the bird capture, "beat", and eat caterpillars; on several occasions the bird perched on "dead" branches in unhindered view for 5-10 seconds (allowing scope use). Its flight between trees was usually short and deliberate -- not like the "flightiness" of nearby warblers.

(over)

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Species: Cassin's Vireo Date seen: 1 Sep, 2000 Documentor: Vernon Kleen

7. Description of behavior: (See previous notes)
8. Description of vocalizations: None heard
9. Description of immediate and surrounding habitat(s): Large, open city park with areas of thick, dense woods, and lots of edge; playground in vicinity of the observation; many human activities in the area (jogging, tennis, dog-running, and children on playground equipment; also, park workers (mowing and/or cleaning up downed limbs) in area.
10. Viewing conditions: Perfect -- clear sky; bird observed from all angles; very little wind. Optical equipment used for observation (type, power): 8x binoculars  
Distance/ how measured? 25 - 80 feet Time(s) of observation: 10:20 to 10:50 a.m.  
Total time of observation: 30 minutes  
Weather (including regional or national weather patterns if relevant)/ sky conditions/ relative position of the sun: Clear sky (not even one cloud); bird viewed from all angles since we followed it from tree to tree for 1/2 hour and varying elevations in the tree.
11. Previous experience with this species and similar species: Have known (banded) Solitary (Blue-headed) Vireos over the past 30+ years; no known experience with this "form"/"species".
12. Please eliminate other similar species and/or hybrids (use additional paper, if necessary):  
The overall paleness and lack of yellowness suggests this species in contrast to the similar-appearing "forms"/"species".
13. Where photos obtained? Not yet If so, by whom? N/A Attached? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Books & illustrations consulted, and advice received. How did these influence this description?  
Dave and I reviewed Matt Heindel's article: Field Identification of the Solitary Vireo Complex in the Dec. 1996 issue of BIRDING after the bird was no longer visible.
15. How long after the observation were field notes recorded? 2½ hours
16. How long after observation was this form completed? 2½ hours
17. Additional remarks:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Vernon Kleen*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Sept, 2000*

Mail directly to: IORC Secretary, David B. Johnson, \_\_\_\_\_ or to IORC Secretary c/o Avian Ecology Program, Natural Heritage Division/Dept. of Natural Resources, Springfield, IL 62701  
FORM REVISED AUGUST 1998