

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*) subspecies unclear,

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):

1

3. Parish: Jefferson

Specific Locality: TNC Landry LeBlanc trail, above main road between small parking area and southern edge of forest.

4. Date(s) when observed:

5 April 2015

5. Time(s) of day when observed:

10:00am – 11:00am

6. Reporting observer and address:

Erik Enbody

eenbody@tulane.edu

6202 S. Rocheblave St, New Orleans, LA 70125

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):

Grace Sprehn

Mitch Foret

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):

Variable. Often high in the trees against the sky, but also observed several times low in good even shade lighting.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Nikon EDG 8x32

11. Distance to bird(s):
10-20m

12. Duration of observation:
Approximately one hour

13. Habitat:
Coastal oak woodland

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

This individual remained in the crown of the trees throughout the observation period and was actively foraging for arthropods (observed gulping one down at one point). It was accompanied by a Red-eyed Vireo and later joined by a Northern Parula, forming a small flock of sorts.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*):

Excellent opportunity for comparison with the accompanying Red-eyed Vireo. I first noted this individual due to its overall brown coloration on the crown, face, wings, and flanks. This gave the bird an overall drab (low contrast) appearance; in comparison to the much more clearly demarked Red-eyed Vireo. Red-eyed Vireos seen throughout the day were in fresh plumage, showing distinctive blue cap, dark eye line and edge to cap, yellowish flanks, and overall green upper body appearance. Close observation of the Black-whiskered Vireo allowed for confirmation of the diagnostic black mustachial stripe and dark eyes.

I suggest that this may in fact be a member of one of the Caribbean races, perhaps *V.a. bonairensis*, due to its overall very drab appearance and large bill. I do not have literature on this species group beyond what is in the conventional field guide, so I am open to discussion on this topic. Black-whiskered Vireos that I have observed in Florida are much more similar to Red-eyed in plumage coloration.

16. Voice: N/A

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation):
Red-eyed Vireo, see above.
Yucatan Vireo would show much large bill and lacks mustachial stripe.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

One photograph can be found here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/42214465@N08/16861233038/>

More upon request.

19. Previous experience with this species:

I have observed this species in Florida previously and in Louisiana in 2014 (<1km away!).

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation:

None

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

Yes

23. Date: 25 April 2015

Time: 11:00am

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? _____ Yes _____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? _____ Yes _____