

# 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](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: Black-whiskered Vireo (*Vireo altiloquus*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 adult
3. Parish: Cameron Parish  
Specific Locality: "Lighthouse Woods" – at the end of Lighthouse Road along the east side of Sabine Pass (N 29.71815°, W 93.84886°)
4. Date(s) when observed: 5 May 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 11:57 AM
6. Reporting observer and address: 3297 Ivanhoe St. Apt A, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): None
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): None
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Good. Midday sun.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Swarovski EL 8.5x42 binoculars and a Canon 60D with a 400mm f/5.6L
11. Distance to bird(s): Perhaps as close as 10 m.
12. Duration of observation: 7 minutes according to my sequence of photos.

13. Habitat: The bird was first located in the scattered, isolated hackberries close to the “parking area” at Lighthouse Woods, where the path leads along the water’s edge to the lighthouse. Wooded habitat here is primarily hackberries interspersed among weedy brush, including ragweed and blackberries. The vireo spent most of its time in two rather large hackberries, but also ventured into two shorter shrub-like trees that I’m unfamiliar with.

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): As I spent almost all of the observation period simply trying to obtain adequate documentation, I didn’t get to observe much in the way of behavior. It, was, however, closely associating with a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), and the two were often in very close proximity to one another, flying one after the other as they commuted between the scattered trees at this location. The two birds seemed to remain buried within the vegetation for large chunks of time, presumably foraging, although I did capture both of them simply perched out in the open as well. This more stationary behavior may have been related to foraging as well, but seemed to preempt the birds’ movements from one tree to another.

Oddly enough, there were exceedingly few migrant vireos present on this day (8 individuals here), although I did manage 5 species.

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*): A typical Red-eyed Vireo-type and, notwithstanding its distinct black “whiskers” (lateral throat stripes), it appeared very similar to that species. Like a Red-eyed Vireo, though, it had a red iris, dull olive-green upperparts, dingy white underparts, a gray crown, long, pale eyebrow, dark eyeline, and pale yellowish undertail coverts. The bird appeared rather long/thick-billed with a seemingly extensive pale base to the mandible.

16. Voice: Silent.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): Eliminated from all other vireos by the species’ eponymous black “whiskers,” which were distinct and blackish in this individual. When looking head-on, the whiskers and eyelines give the bird a strong, dark “X” to the face. Also distinguished from the most similar (and abundant) Red-eyed Vireo by a lack of dark borders to the gray crown, duller plumage throughout (less white and bright green), and, to a lesser degree, by bill size and color.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Yes, in Florida, multiple islands in the Caribbean, and previously in Louisiana at Grand Isle (6 April 2014).

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

a. at time of observation: None

b. after observation: Sibley

21. This description is written from:

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

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

23. Date: 21 May 2017

Time: 10:00 PM

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



Cameron Rutt

