

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*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1*, never heard vocalizing, so perhaps a female. (* I invite study of photos from various dates to determine if only one individual is involved.)
3. Parish: Cameron

Specific Locality: Willow Island

4. Date(s) when observed: 26 April, 29 April, 30 April, 1 May, 7 May 2022

5. Time(s) of day when observed: Various times

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Paul E. Conover
City: Lafayette
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Rob Dobbs and Melvin Weber also documented or reported on 26 April while birding loosely in group with me. Kat and Layla, shorebird biologists, also saw the bird on one of the days.

8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): I was told about a BWVI being reported at Willow Island during LOS Weekend.

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): Various lights, directions, etc.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Nikon D3500 camera with 200 mm lens, Zeiss 10s

11. Distance to bird(s): Down to about 3 m

12. Duration of observation: Altogether, well over an hour.

13. Habitat: Remnant chenier

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

The bird typically fed actively but in the manner of many vireos, with periods of movement interspersed with times when the bird would hold a perch for longer periods of time. The bird fed often at eye level or below, occasionally wandering higher up into the oaks and feeding along main limbs. The bird also favored flowering Honey Locust trees, especially stunted storm-damaged Honey Locusts that were closer to ground level. The bird typically did not associate with Red-eyed Vireos during my encounters with it. On one occasion I saw it with another REVI-type vireo but I had the impression that both might have been BWVI. In fact, I can't definitely state that all of the sightings reported here belong to one individual; photo study on my part hasn't led to any conclusion in that regard, although others might notice clues to that point.

15. Description:

Red-eyed type vireo with whisker marks caused by feathering and not feather defects or gaps. In some views, this individual looked superficially close to REVI.

Flight feathers edged greenish as in Red-eyed, contrasting slightly with a drabber olive-green back—perhaps with grayer tone—than on Red-eyed.

Underparts and pale areas on face (supercilia, lores, and fore-part of face below eyeline) not as white as on Red-eyed, instead pale areas on face pale buff- or olive-whitish extending to sides of breast. Cheek also more of a muted buff with only slight hint of greenish. Weakly demarcated grayish crown with only slightly noticeable, very indistinct darker lower border anteriorly. Spindle-shaped dusky eyeline about color of crown but variable in extent and tone at various angles and postures. Whiskers extremely variable depending on angle and posture as well, ranging from almost indiscernible to distinct. Throat between whiskers paler off-white.

Flanks dingy olive-yellowish, with clearer yellowish underwings. Undertail coverts clear pale yellow, more strongly yellow than on Red-eyed (of which very few in spring seem to so this feature as opposed to fall). Whitish areas of underparts dingier than on REVI.

Bill dark grayish, paler on basal half of lower mandible, legs dark but with bluish-gray hint. Bill did not seem particularly long vs. Red-eyed. (My impression of this bird was that it seemed more in line with ssp. *barbatulus* in that regard, with the caveat that this species seems extremely variable).

16. Voice: Not noted despite long and close association with the individual. Although my hearing is not the best, I was able to hear more distant Red-eyed during some of these encounters. Several searchers struck out on this bird, and that seems to indicate that bird was not vocal during their searches.

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): REVI and YGVI closest contenders, with Yucatan Vireo more distant. The latter by color and pattern differences, YGVI by color, REVI by color and presence of whisker marks.

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

19. Previous experience with this species: Seen in FL in past, but most experience here, with

several sightings over the years.

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

a. at time of observation:

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from: Description from initial sighting on eBird modified by later, more thorough observations.

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

Yes.

23. Date: 29 May 2022

26 April:



29 April:



















30 April:









1 May:











7 May:







