

LATE WARBLING VIREO RECORD
ERIE COUNTY, PA
11/28/1992
Franklin C. Haas

On 11/28/92, Barbara Haas and I were birding near the Roderick Wildlife Management Area in western Erie County. We stopped along the road when we saw some bird activity. As we were pishing, I noticed a bird fly into a bush about 15 feet away. I immediately thought it was a warbler, but upon closer examination, I recognized it as a Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*).

The bird was mostly gray on the back, tail, and wings, almost white underneath. It had a noticeable, but sort of washed out, facial pattern consisting of a white supercilium and a whitish area below the front part of the eye. I have noticed this pattern on fall Warbling Vireos before. It gives them sort of a large white fuzzy eyering effect. It had no wingbars. The bill was thicker than a warbler's. Photos were taken.

Similar species:

Other vireos - The lack of wingbars and strong facial pattern (stripes, etc.) ruled out all but the fall plumage of Philadelphia Vireo. The subject bird had absolutely no yellow on it, and even the muted facial pattern of fall Philadelphia Vireos is stronger than the subject bird's.

Warblers - The Tennessee warbler has a thinner bill, a stronger facial pattern, and shows a contrast between the buffy/yellowish belly and the white undertail area. The Orange-crowned Warbler shows faint streaking on the breast and would not have the strong contrast between the back and the breast that this bird has.

I have seen many Warbling vireos in this plumage during fall migrations.

This record matches the latest previous sighting for Pennsylvania, a bird at Rector, Westmoreland County, 11/28/83 (Santner, *et al.* 1992). (Note that the reference cited by Santner, Leberman 1988, does not actually give the date and location of this sighting. It simply has a dot on the bar graph in that approximate time period. I assume that the actual date was gotten through personal communication. This record does not appear in *American Birds* either.)

References:

Santner, S. J., D.W. Brauning, G. P. Schwalbe, P.W. Schwalbe 1992. *Annotated List of the Birds of Pennsylvania*, Pa. Biological Survey Contribution Number Four.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Warbling Vireo (Vireo gilvus)**

Date of Sighting: **28 November 1993 to 28 November 1993**

Location: **NEAR RODERICK WMA**

County: **ERIE**

Observer(s): **Frank & Barb Haas**

Date of Submission: **1992**

Submitted by: **Frank & Barb Haas**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **YES** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner			X					
TOTALS	4		3					
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

2-23-94