

## BIRD SIGHTING REPORT

**SPECIES** White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

**DATE** November 23, 2014

**NUMBER** One adult

**LOCATION** Tommy Thompson Community Garden, west side of Intervale Road, Burlington, Vermont, roughly one-half mile north of Riverside Avenue. (44.498° latitude, -73.208° longitude.)

**CONDITIONS** This bird was observed periodically from about 11 a.m. to noon at distances ranging from 12 to 50 feet. This included one unobscured, eye-level encounter for more than 30 seconds as the bird scrutinized the observers. The sky was overcast, the wind light from the south and the temperature about 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Observations were made with Zeiss 8x42 TFL binoculars and naked eye. Overall viewing conditions were superb.

**IDENTIFICATION** A small, brightly colored and relatively chunky bird, roughly the size of a warbler and noticeably smaller than a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). Dark, fairly stout bill with slight upper mandible overbite; yellow “spectacles” and a thin dark line between eye and bill; white iris; yellowish green upper face, back and rump; gray nape; whitish throat, belly and undertail coverts; yellow sides and flanks; double whitish wing bars on near black wing coverts; near black flight and tail feathers with yellowish edges; gray legs and feet.

**BEHAVIOR** This bird busily foraged with a small flock of Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) and Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*); they were periodically joined by American Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*). The group visited small deciduous trees but spent most of the time among various tangles of bushes, vines and weeds. The bird appeared quite curious, pausing several times – once at length – to study the observers. Upon concluding its study, it defecated white feces and continued on its way.

**DISTINCTIONS** Size and shape, white eyes, yellow “spectacles,” double whitish wing bars, whitish throat, gray nape, greenish cap and back, and yellow sides and flanks distinguish as an adult of this species.

**OBSERVERS** Theodore G. Murin, 77 Overlook Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403  
Larry Clarfeld, Winooski, VT  
Qing Ren, Colchester, VT  
Hank Kaestner, Shelburne, VT

**NOTES** This bird was discovered and photographed at this location by Larry Clarfeld.

**DATE OF REPORT** November 24, 2014

**SIGNATURE** 