

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

White-eyed Vireo in Hamilton County: On the morning of 16 July 1982, Elsbeth Johnson, David Rutkowski, and I were blockbusting, or visiting unassigned blocks for the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas project, in southeastern Hamilton County. We were headed east on Creek Road in the Town of Hope, toward Hope Falls, and had just passed the Bennett Lake trail which helped mark our entry into Block 5679C. At about 11:30 a.m. we decided to stop just inside the northeast corner of the block at an area shown as open space on the Harrisburg Quadrangle map.

On the left (NE) side of the road we found a small sand bank with an active Bank Swallow colony, the sandy area surrounded by typical scrubby second-growth. On the right (SW) side, the road was bordered by white birch, ash, maple, and aspen mixed second-growth. Behind this screening vegetation we noticed a tiny pond, apparently formed by a small tributary of East Stony Creek. Much of the shoreline was bordered by a black alder stand and dense tangles of shrubs and vines. Approximate elevation was 900'. Weather was hot and humid, the first day of a major heat wave.

Johnson and I stepped down to the shore while Rutkowski remained on Creek Road. Our presence first attracted one of several calling Black-capped Chickadees. Then in a low pondside willow to my right I noted the movement of a plainer and lighter-colored bird. From 10-15 feet, I observed vireo shape and posture, not as elongated as Red-eyed, wing-bars, a distinct yellow wash confined to just the sides of the breast, and a blank expression. Viewed through 8.5 x 44 binoculars, the bird had a distinct eye-ring, but most amazing of all a white eye. I called to my companions, directing them to the bird and urging them to look at the head. Johnson, using 7 x 40 wide angle binoculars was able to obtain two brief but good views from as close as 3-8 feet, and concurs in the identification of an adult White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). Our shared observation time had lasted no longer than 30 seconds when the vireo, together with the chickadees, moved off toward the dense growth. Efforts to relocate it over the next hour were unsuccessful.

About a week later, the site was visited by Robert Kirker and William Lee, who also obtained satisfactory views of a White-eyed Vireo near the shoreline of the tiny pond. At the time of their observation it was accompanied by a second bird that remained mostly hidden from view behind trees, but based upon quick glimpses of coloration and behavior, Lee felt that it might have been the same species (pers. comm.). This represents a first record for Hamilton County and a second for the Adirondack Park; Carleton earlier reported a White-eyed Vireo at Elizabethtown, Essex Co., 2-11 October 1976 (*Kingbird*, 27: 28). Square 5679 where the vireo was seen is assigned to Atlas Region 8 (Hudson-Mohawk) for administrative purposes.

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