NOTES

FIRST RECORD OF WHITE-EYED VIREO IN CALIFORNIA

AT approximately 10:00 hours on 4 June 1969 an adult White-eyed Vireo Vireo griseus was found in a mist net near the Monterey Cypress tree in the yard of the coast guard living quarters on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, California. John Smail examined, measured, and banded this bird. Its weight was 10.9 grams, having only a trace of fat visible beneath the skin. Ossification of the cranium was complete. I took several color photographs of this bird and released it. It was recaptured at 09:00 the next morning, and several more times during the day, but was not seen after 5 June. Color prints of the photographs taken of this bird are on file at the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and the San Diego Natural History Museum. These photographs show the identifying morphological characters including the white iris, yellow eye-ring, and yellow above the lores. This is the first record of this species in California.





FIGURE 1. A White-eyed Vireo Vireo griseus mist-netted on Southeast Farallon Island off San Francisco, California, on 4 June 1969. The color slides, from which these two prints were made, show the crown olive-brown to grayish on hindneck; a conspicuous stripe from base of bill to eye yellow, and this yellow extends around the eye merging into gray face; lores blackish; underparts pale grayish-white, white on chin, and tinged yellow along sides and flanks; wing dark grayish-brown, lesser coverts edged grayish-green, middle and greater coverts tipped with white. Bill blue-gray with small patch of pale horn at tip of upper mandible; iris pure white. The black visible on the throat in one of the pictures is merely the result of feathers being disarranged.

Photo by Henry Robert

The A.O.U. (Check-list, 1957) lists accidental records of the White-eyed Vireo in the West for Boulder, Utah, and Cochise County, Arizona. The Utah specimen was collected on the Hall Ranch, 8 miles west of Boulder, on 11 May 1953, and was referred to the race novaboracensis by Porter and Bushman (Wilson Bulletin 68:152-153, 1956). According to Phillips et al. (The Birds of Arizona, 1964) the Cochise County, Arizona, record was found to be based on a clerical error, the specimen in question being a Gray Flycatcher Empidonax wrightii (formerly Empidonax griseus). Snider (Audubon Field Notes 21:65, 1967) reported one seen near Tucson, Arizona, on 13 November 1966. The observer, Edwin Willis, informed me in a letter dated 10 September 1970 that the bird was seen in Pima Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mountains. Henry Robert, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Mesa Road, Bolinas, California 94924.