

Warbling Vireo at Santee NWR, South Carolina

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On 29 June 1989 Kalbach was birding in an agricultural area of the Bluff Unit of Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Clarendon County, South Carolina when he heard the song of a Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*). Kalbach is very familiar with the Warbling Vireo due to several years' residence in central Pennsylvania. He quickly located the singing bird, which he identified by sight as a Warbling Vireo. Kalbach notified Carter, who notified Glover. On the morning of 1 July 1989 a party consisting of Carter, Glover, and Caroline Eastman followed Kalbach to the site. The vireo could be heard singing from several hundred meters away, and was quickly located.

The bird was observed for about a half hour at distances of 10 to 30 meters as it sang and foraged in lakeside willow trees and a corn field. It was associating with an Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) and an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).

The bird was a medium-sized vireo, with an overall gray color. The underparts were whiter than the upper parts. The belly and vent areas were basically white. The bird had an indistinct white superciliary line, which was not outlined in black (such as is usually the case with a Red-eyed Vireo, *V. olivaceus*). There was no noticeable yellow hue to the underparts.

Carter obtained several minutes of recognizable sound recording of the bird's song and its scold note. A copy of this recording will be submitted to the South Carolina Species Records Committee for evaluation.

A search was made for a second Warbling Vireo, because the observed bird was acting very territorial. But no other vireo was found in the area. Because the species occasionally nests in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina it is possible that nesting could occur at Santee NWR, but no evidence of nesting was obtained. The bird was not relocated after 1 July, so it is best described as a summer vagrant or early migrant.

The sixth edition of the AOU Checklist (American Ornithologists' Union 1983:595-596) gives the breeding range of the Warbling Vireo east of the Rockies as: "southeastern Texas (casually), southern Louisiana, central Mississippi, northern Alabama, southeastern Tennessee, western North Carolina and Virginia." The range in migration is given as: "Migrates regularly through the south-central United States and eastern Mexico, rarely through the southeastern states east to southern Florida."

Post and Gauthreaux (Contributions Charleston Museum:18, 1989, p.49) assign the Warbling Vireo to the Provisional I list for South Carolina (one to three reported occurrences): "Two reports: 21 July 1956, Jocassee (Chat 20:82, 1956); 1 September 1958, Aiken (Chat 23:38-39, 1959)."