

FIRST RECORDS OF WHITE-EYED VIREO, BLUE-WINGED WARBLER,
AND BLUE-WINGED WARBLER × GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER HYBRID FOR ST. MARTIN

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Abstract.—We observed a single White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), banded a Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*), and banded a Blue-winged Warbler × Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) hybrid on Pic Paradis, St. Martin, FWI, during January of 2005. These are the first records for these species on St. Martin and the White-eyed Vireo observation constitutes the first record for this species in the Lesser Antilles.

Key Words: Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, hybrid, Lesser Antilles, St. Martin, *Vermivora chrysoptera*, *Vermivora pinus*, *Vireo griseus*, White-eyed Vireo

Resumen.—PRIMEROS REGISTROS DE *VIREO GRISEUS*, *VERMIVORA PINUS*, Y *VERMIVORA PINUS* × *VERMIVORA CHRYSOPTERA* EN ST. MARTIN. Observamos un individuo de *Vireo griseus*, un individuo anillado de *Vermivora pinus* y un híbrido anillado de *Vermivora pinus* × *Vermivora chrysoptera* en Pic Paradis, S. Martín, Antillas Francesas, durante enero del 2005. Estos son los primeros registros de estas especies en S. Martín y la observación del *Vireo griseus* es la primera de esta especie en las Antillas Menores.

Palabras claves: Antillas Menores, Cigüita Ala Azul, Cigüita Ala Oro, Julian Chiví Ojiblanco, St. Martin, *Vermivora chrysoptera*, *Vermivora pinus*, *Vireo griseus*

DURING JANUARY 2005, while conducting standardized mist-netting and point counts on St. Martin, we observed or captured two species and a hybrid previously unrecorded on the island: White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*), Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*), and a hybrid Blue-winged Warbler × Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). The White-eyed Vireo represents the first record for the Lesser Antilles.

OBSERVATIONS

White-eyed Vireo.—At approximately 11:00 hr on 11 January 2005, while conducting point counts in the xerophytic forest dominated by Thorn Acacia (*Acacia tortuosa*), Buttonwood (*Platanus hispanica*), and ficus (*Ficus* sp.) below Pic Paradis, A. Brown first heard an unfamiliar vireo song and then observed the bird within 5 m for 20 min through 10× binoculars. It was about 3 m high in a Thorn Acacia (*Acacia tortuosa*) and constantly moved between branches. A. Brown and Karla Falk relocated it later that day and observed it for an additional 20 min, but we were unsuccessful in obtaining a photograph. An attempt to relocate the bird the following day was unsuccessful.

The bird was identified by its bright yellow supraloral area connected with a bright yellow

orbital ring. The pale iris indicated it was an adult (Pyle 1997). The bill and lores were black, the forehead and crown olive green, and the nape was pale gray extending down the sides of the neck onto the upper breast. The throat, breast, and belly were white with the flanks a bright lemon yellow. The back and upper tail were the same shade of olive green as the crown. The wings had two white wing bars separated by a black bar, and olive green primaries and secondaries tipped with black and edged with yellow. The tail was blackish gray, with the outer rectrices edged with yellow. The legs were gray.

White-eyed Vireo is a regular over-wintering migrant through the northern Caribbean. The species is considered uncommon in the Bahamas, Cuba, and the Caymans. It is rare in Turks and Caicos, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico, and is a vagrant on Hispaniola and the Virgin Islands (St. John) (Bond 1987, Pashley 1988a, 1988b, Faanes and Haney 1989, Pashley and Hamilton 1990, Bond 1993, Rafaele *et al.* 1998). The species also overwinters from southeastern North America through Central America to Panamá. The species breeds in eastern North America (Hopps *et al.* 1995). Although there are no records from the Lesser Antilles, there is one remarkable record farther south from Tobago (Petersen and McRae 2002, White and Hayes 2002).

Blue-winged Warbler.—We mist-netted an individual (Fig. 1) in secondary dry forest dominated by mature mango (*Mangifera indica*), gum tree (*Acacia nilotica*), and ficus (*Ficus* sp.) at 16:00 hr on 19 January 2005. It was banded with United States Bird Banding Lab (BBL) number 2360-64326, sexed as a male based on plumage, and aged as a 2CY male based on complete ossification of the bird's skull and the shape of the outer rectrices and primary coverts (Pyle 1997). There was no fat store, no body molt, no flight feather molt and no flight feather wear. Wing chord was 61.0 mm and body mass was 9.0 g. The bird was photographed and released following the data collection. It did not call in the hand and was not observed again following release.

The bird was yellow on the crown, throat, and sides of the neck, with the auriculars and nape a duller yellow, tinged blue. A thin black line extended from the bill through the lores to a point between the eye and nape. The iris was black. The breast, belly, and flanks were lemon yellow, and the undertail coverts were white. The back, scapulars, and uppertail coverts were yellowish blue. The wings had two white wing bars separated by a bluish bar, and blue-gray primaries and secondaries with some yellowish edging. The tail was blue-gray and the legs were black.



Fig. 1. Male Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) at Pic Paradis, St. Martin, 19 January 2005. Photo by Adam Brown.

Blue-winged Warbler × Golden-winged Warbler.—We mist-netted a bird (Fig. 2) in secondary dry forest at 10:00 hr on 2 January 2005. It was banded with BBL 2360-49702, sexed as a male based on plumage, and aged as a second year bird based on complete ossification of the bird's skull and the shape of the outer rectrices and primary coverts (Pyle 1997). It had no fat store and no body molt or flight feather molt but some flight feather wear. Wing chord was 61.0 mm and body mass was 8.7 g. The bird did not call in the hand and was not seen again after release.

The bird was bright yellow on the forehead and throat. A bold black eye line connected the black lores to the orbital ring and continued to a point between the eye and nape, and also spread below the eye onto the auriculars, extending about half-way down the cheek. The nape and back were blue yellow. The breast, belly, and flanks bright yellow, and the undertail coverts were white. The wing had two yellow-white wing bars and a small amount of blue-gray, with blue-gray primaries and secondaries, and many small yellow feathers randomly scattered on the upperwing. The tail was blue-gray with long white patches on the inner web of the outer rectrices. The legs were black.

This bird did not fit the classic “Brewster’s” or “Lawrence’s” hybrid phenotypes, so it was most likely a second or higher generation back-cross hybrid with a Blue-winged. However, it looked more like a Blue-winged Warbler except for the more extensive black below the eye and the extensive yellow wash on the wingbars. The dark facial pattern, especially in the auricular area, suggests a Lawrence’s type back-crossed individual.

There are very few records for Blue-winged War-



Fig. 2. Male Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) × Golden-winged Warbler (*V. chrysoptera*) hybrid at Pic Paradis, St. Martin, 2 January 2005. Photo by Adam Brown.

bler and no records of either Golden-winged Warbler or Blue-winged Warbler × Golden-winged Warbler hybrids for the Lesser Antilles (Pashley and Hamilton 1990, Confer 1992). Blue-winged Warblers are rare in the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, the Greater Antilles, and the Virgin Islands, with the exception of Puerto Rico where there are no records (Raffaele *et al.* 1998). The species is considered a vagrant on St. Barthelemy and Guadeloupe in the Lesser Antilles (Gochfield 1974, Bond 1987, Pashley 1988a, 1988b, Faanes and Haney 1989, Pashley and Hamilton 1990, Bond 1993, Raffaele *et al.* 1998). It is a common overwintering migrant in Central America to Panama. The two species breed in eastern North America (Confer 1992, Curson *et al.* 1994, Dunn and Garrett 1997, Gill *et al.* 2001).

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