



Separating Blue-headed and Cassin's Vireos



The Institute for
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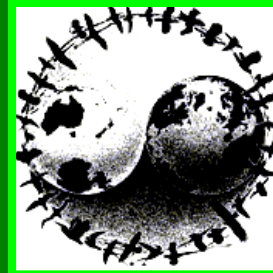
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Comments on winter 2010-2011 Ensenada and Point Loma Blue-headed Vireos

Peter Pyle



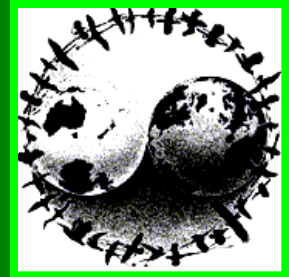
Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos



First-year
female BHVI

Adult male
CAVI

Dullest HY/SY female BHVI (top, MVZ 43406, SC, 26 Sep 1895) and brightest AHY/ASY male CAVI (MVZ 87287, Tulare County, CA, 30 Aug 1943) at MVZ. Head color in the overlap area is dull blue, breast is medium-bright white, and flanks are medium-dull yellow.



Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

Duller
female
BHVI



Adult male
CAVI





Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

Thus, once age and sex is determined, the two species are more-easily separated.

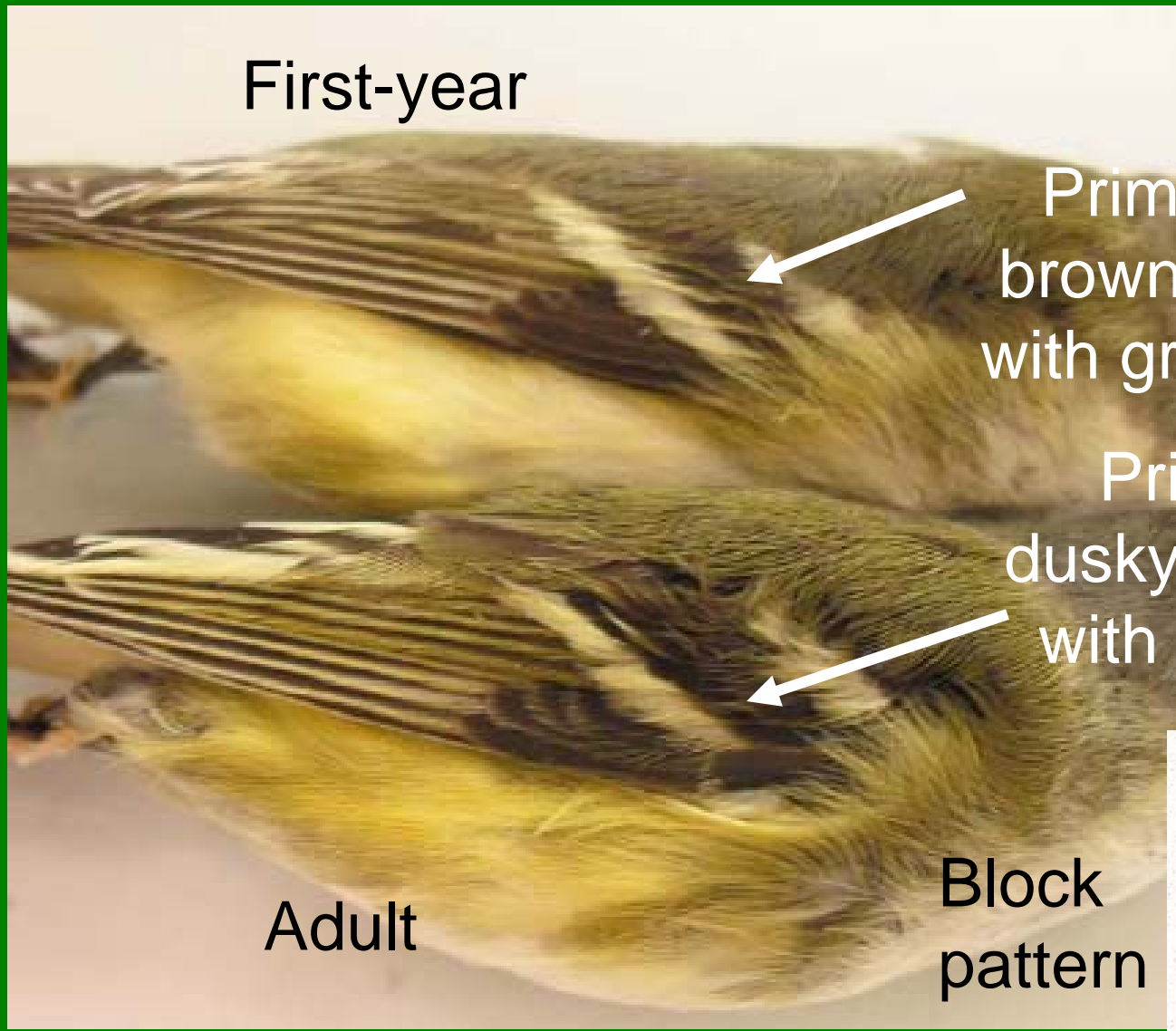
It is best to age birds first, then assess sex and species simultaneously.

Crisp digital images allow successful ageing and species diagnosis



Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

First-year

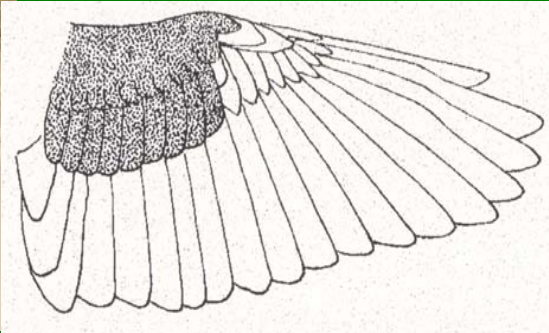


Primary coverts brown, contrasting with greater coverts

Primary coverts dusky, not contrasting with greater coverts

Adult

Block pattern





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Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos



Adult

First-year

Fresh fall



Worn spring

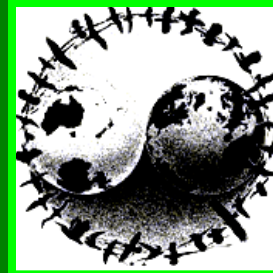


Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

First-year Male BHVI

Point Loma (San Diego)
5 Jan 2011





Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

Adult Male CAVI

Indistinct malar



Montana,
31 August 2012



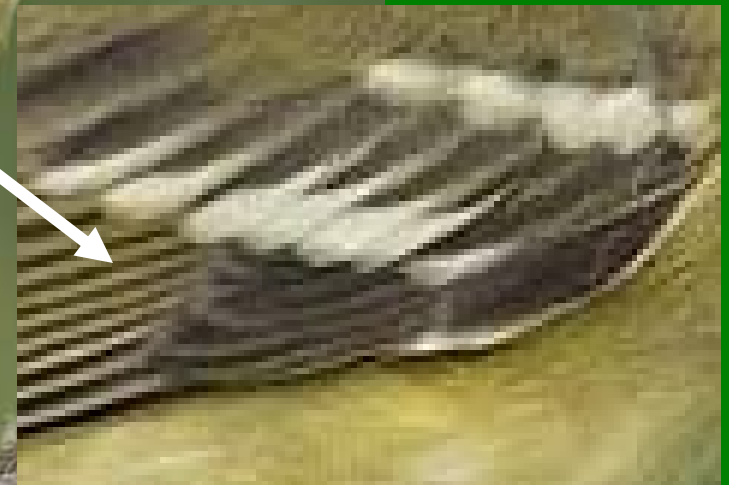
Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

Adult Female BHVI

New York
12 September 2012



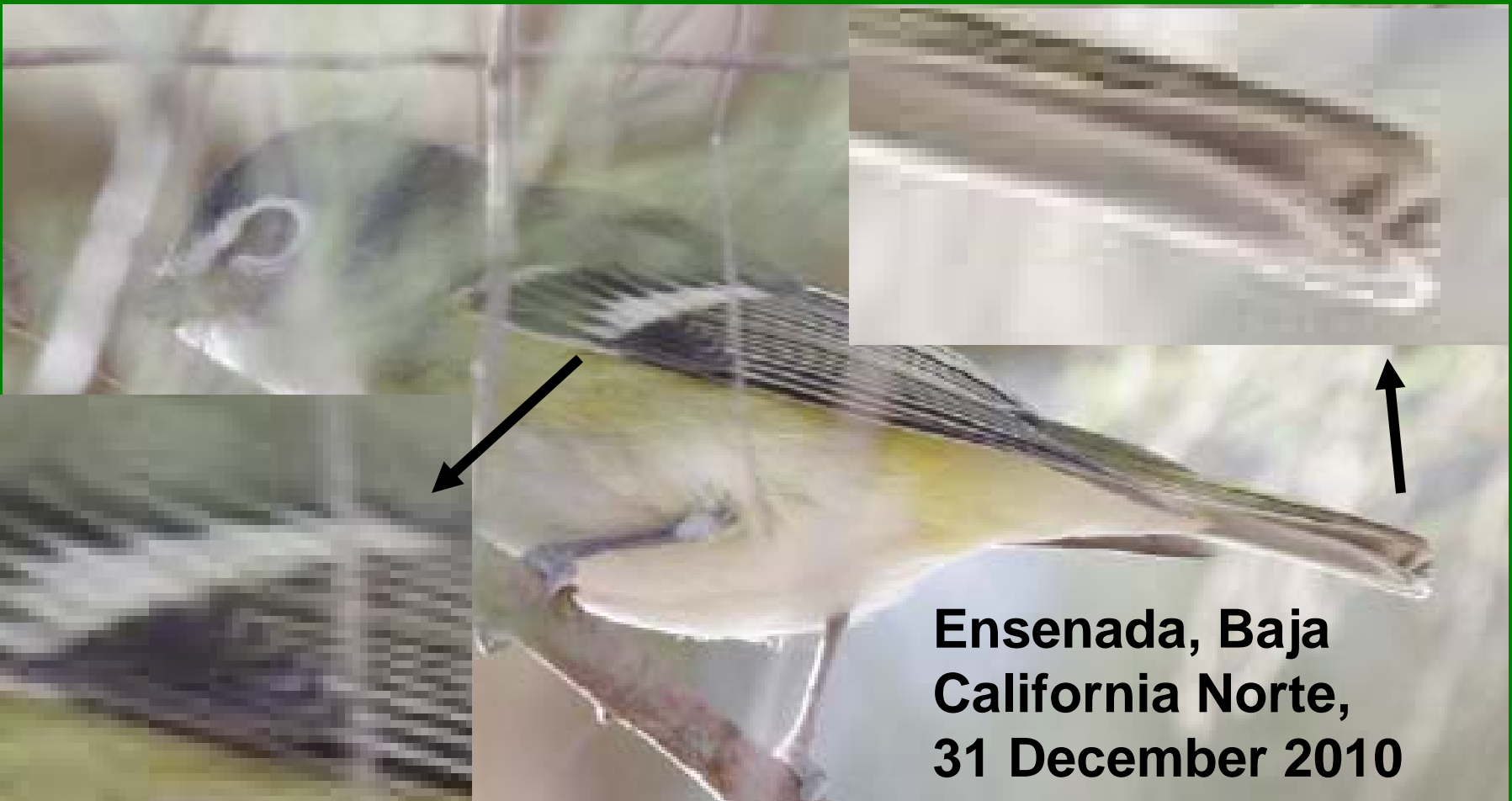
Distinct malar





Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

First-year Male BHVI



**Ensenada, Baja
California Norte,
31 December 2010**



Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

Adult Male CAVI



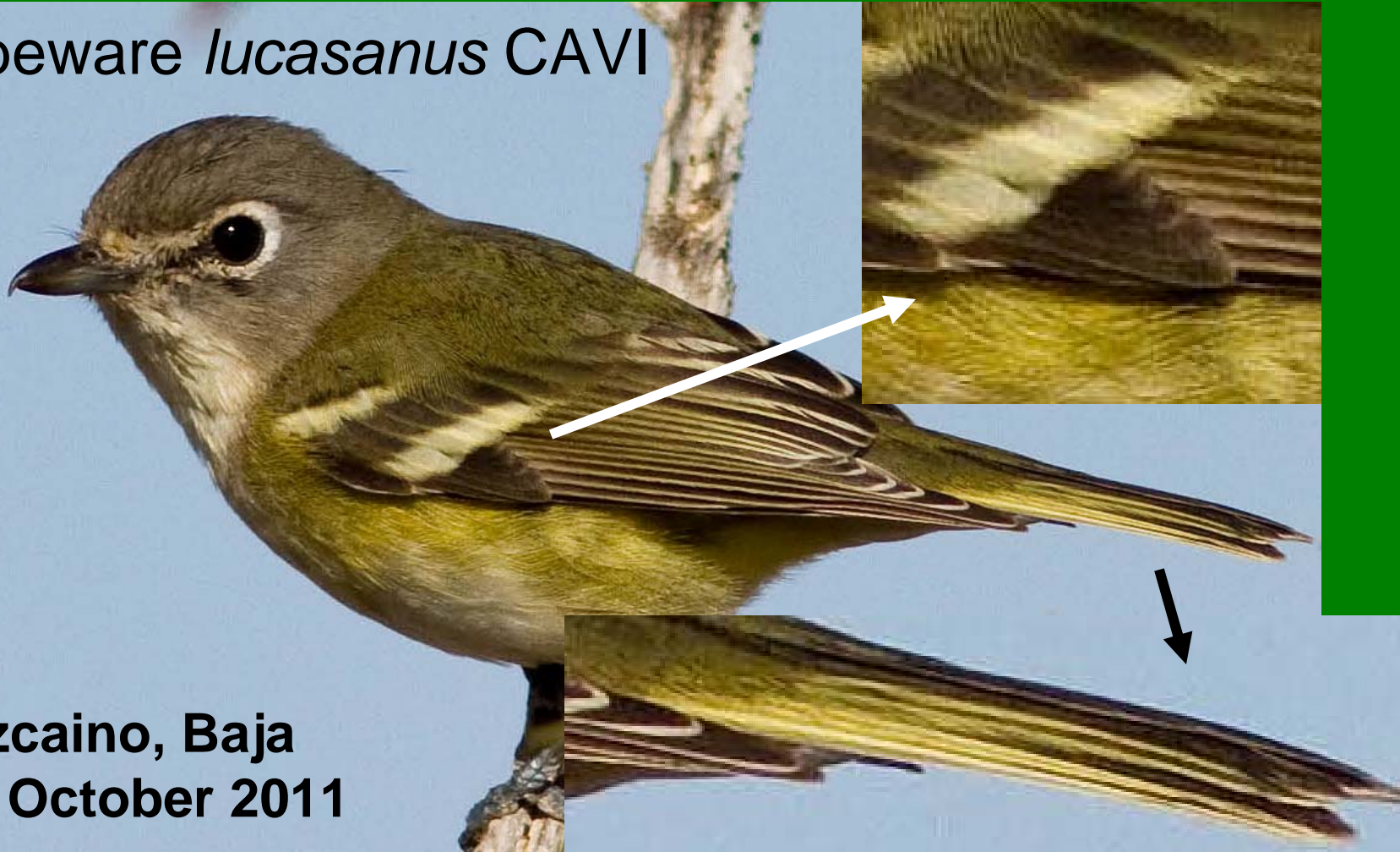
Reno, 1 Sep 2013



Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

First-year Male BHVI

But beware *lucasanus* CAVI



Vizcaino, Baja
19 October 2011



Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

Adult Male CAVI

San Diego
21 October 2011



Indistinct malar



Blue-headed vs. Cassin's Vireos

First-year Male

Encinitas, CA
2 April 2014

