

Gillespie Creek Journal



**Wild Plum Tree
Gillespie Creek**

June 1, 2022



Lavender Trillium

June is busting out all over in West Central Wisconsin. From blooming Wild Plum trees to fading Lavender Trillium,, Blood Root, Blue-bead Lily to the Common Wood Violet, Wisconsin State Flower. My Minnesota Lady Slipper just emerged from its mulch bed.



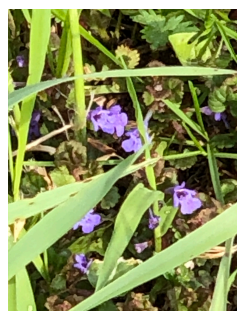
Blood Root



Emerging Lady Slipper



Blue-bead Lily



Wood Violet

**“Here I am,
Where are you?”**

This poetic song of the Red-eyed Vireo, the current vocal star of my Gillespie Creek neighborhood, fills the air morning to night.

The beautiful male in the photograph has a streamlined body with neat olive-green and white coloring.

I recognized him by his song as well as his dark eyebrow-like feathering and his distinctive red eye.

Merlin e-bird recorded four other Vireo species hanging out in my neighborhood this morning:

- White-eyed Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Philadelphia Vireo,

Each is identified by its eyebrow and specific eye and surrounding feathering.

Vireos are incessant singers. A single male has been recorded as singing 20,000 songs per day!

Vireos are common across most of the U.S. They do migrate north to south; some into South America.

They build indicate nests and feed on insects within their tree habitats.

DNA Tribes
By Heid E Erdrich
Turtle Mountain Ojibwa
writer and author; Editor of
New Poets of Native
Nations

The Red-eyed Vireo calls:
Here I am, Where are you?
Like some bizarre bio-
mimic,
Web ads pop up while I
email
Asking: Native American
DNA-
What tribe are you?
All's I'd need to do is swab
and mail away
Cells my ancestors took
Millenia to perfect.
And who owns them then?
Here I am, Where are you?
The red-eyed Vireo calls,
Misleading us to relocate,
Following its flight
Away from nesting tight in
twigs,
To get us lost in a bog,
Asking all along if we even
Know our own local:
Here I am, Where are you?
As if that could fool us,
Make us forget the nesting
grounds.
The Red eye cast ever
backward
To a place always
known as home.



Red-eyed Vireo
Photo by Audubon