

Species: WORM-EATING WARBLER Helmitheros vermivorus
 (Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): April 25, 1975 Time Bird Seen: 1400 to 1700 hrs *

Locality: Spring Canyon - just east of Dam.

Nearest Town: Ft Collins County: Larimer

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
<u>A party including Paul Gentler.</u>	<u>UNK. (Columbiana, S.A.)</u>	

Optical Equipment: Suichel 7x50 Banner Binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used: Nikon F- Camera, high speed attachment film 300mm. Pushed lens.

Light Conditions: slightly overcast

Distance from bird (how measured): a minimum of 6 ft - focal length of lens.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: UNK. Plumage: Adult-breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The bird situated between feeding on the floor of a creek canyon that had leaf and branch litter in abundance. see slide # 17. The bird used its bill to move sand and leaves and probed the exposed soil for invertebrate organisms. When not feeding the bird perched in trees that were of a willow variety or cottonwoods. (see slide # 20). While perched the bird remained quite still during my attempts at photography, but eventually seemed to avoid a good picture being taken. The perch height was $\approx$ 10 ft or less from the ground. It appeared to move frequently on the slope of a hill side leading down to the creek.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern.

Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

The bird was small - typical warbler size - with the usual warbler appearance. The most distinguishing plumage characteristic was the brown-lined pattern on the top of the head. This line was quite obvious in the usual observation through binoculars, because much of the observation period was spent by me looking down at the bird feeding on the ground. The brown-lined pattern of the top of the head and side of the head was the distinguishing identifying character that I used to identify the bird. The narrow-bill, general coloration, and behavior were also noted, but the brown line on the head was distinctive. again see photographs 19, 20

(OVER)

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

The bird was silent - I observed the bird for a total of 3 hrs. on 2 days and did not hear a song or call.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

The habitat was cottonwood spring - rather marshy for north-central Colorado. It is a deciduous area in the midst of piñon-juniper to the west - and grassland to the east. The spring runs west-east with grass floor down - the bird was seen 15 yds away from the spring to the north at the base and up a hillside. It spent all its time near the base & 15 yds up the slope.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Frankly, there are very few similarly appearing species. The only other possible warblers sp. would be Swainson's or Water thrushes. The bird was not sketched - eliminating Water thrushes & Oven birds and had definite brown lines in the head and sides.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Yes, I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio - where I've been bird watching for many years and have seen this species and similar (?) on many occasions.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?
Beds of N.A. - Chandler, et al. - confirmatory.

This report was written from notes made during ☒ after ☐ observation; from memory ☒

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Enclose 2 photos. You may copy. But please return originals