

SPECIES: WORM-EATING WARBLER
(Vernacular Name)

HEMITHRODUS VERMIVORUS 52-92-79
(Scientific Name)

DATE(S): May 13, 1992

TIME OF OBSERVATION: 1330 MDT TO 1st second

EXACT LOCATION: Muir Springs Park, Morgan Co. Rd. 16.

NEAREST TOWN: Fort Morgan COUNTY: Morgan

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

None that I know of.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: 10x50 Bushnell Binoculars

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Mostly cloudy

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: Not a factor due to cloudy cover.

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 20'; estimated

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: One SEX: Unknown PLUMAGE: Adult

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: Bird was "pushed" up from a wet boggy thicket, observed very briefly as it popped into an open area. Nervously flitted about for about 30 seconds before dropping down out of sight. Further attempts to coax it up again by "pushing" and squeaking proved unsuccessful.

HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.):
Head bright buffy; crown buffy with bold, black stripes on each side.

EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.):
Dark eye with black line running through eye from base of the bill back to nape. Face bright buffy.

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): a rather large bill for a warbler, narrow and pointed, grayish in color.

LEGS & FEET: Not noted.

UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): All upperparts of brown.

UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.):
Chin & throat bright buffy. Rest of underparts dull buffy.

TRICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):

Uppertail: Olive brown. Undertail: Not seen well.

INGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): Wings olive brown, same color and tone as upperparts (back, rump & uppertail). There were no wing-bars.

VOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):
None heard.

HABITAT: Riparian area along the South Platte River; bird was found in a spring-fed, boggy thicket

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*): Has a dark brownish crown lacking bold, black stripes of *H. vermivorus*. Grayish underparts rather than buffy. Has conspicuous pale supercilium.

All three species in the genus *Seiurus* - Ovenbird (*S. aurocapillus*), Louisiana Waterthrush (*S. motacilla*) & Northern Waterthrush (*S. noveboracensis*) are streaked on the underparts and therefore are immediately eliminated.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

WARM-EATING WARBLER: Have seen rather few of this species - Long Island, N.Y. in the 1950's; South Carolina in the 1950's and 1960's; and in Texas (High Island) during the 1980's. Seen but once in Colorado - a single bird at Prewitt Reservoir SWA, Washington Co. on May 7, 1985.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Seen only once! - a single bird at Boulder (along Boulder Creek near Ball Brothers on May 21, 1975.

Have seen good numbers of the '*Seiurus*' genus throughout the eastern United States dating back to the early 1940's.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

None consulted.

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING AFTER ☒ OBSERVATION; FROM MEMORY

NAME: JACK REDDALL SIGNATURE: Jack Reddall DATE: 5-20-92