

WORM-EATING WARBLER

Helmitheros vermivorus 52-94-75

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name)

ACCEPTED

DATE OF OBSERVATION	TIME OF OBSERVATION	NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN	SEX	PLUMAGE
May 14, 1994	0730 TO 0745 MDT	One	Unknown	Breeding Adult
	TO			
	TO			

LOCALITY: Bonny Reservoir State Recreation Area along the north shore of the reservoir near Foster Grove Campground. ELEVATION: 3500' COUNTY: Yuma

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THE BIRD (Names, Addresses, Telephone Number):
None, although many others were shown and saw the bird. (Too many to list addresses and telephone numbers)

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: Celestron 9.4 X 44 binoculars

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Overcast; Wind, North 25 MPH; Temperature: 50°F.

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: Not a factor due to overcast conditions.

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 75', estimated

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: Observed creeping about in a thicket of smags close to the ground, disappearing from view momentarily now and then only to emerge again nervously peering here and there in search of food.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (EMPHASIS ON KEY FIELD MARKS): Relative size and shape; plumage and color pattern of head, upperparts and underparts; shape and color of bill, wings, tail, feet and legs; eye color.

a rather non-descript appearing warbler except for its luffy head marked with two bold, black stripes on the crown; a prominent dark line through the eye extending back into the auricular area. Back, wings (no wing bars), rump and tail plain, dull olive. Underparts pale buff.

HABITAT: Deciduous woodlands and brushy thickets in wet grass at the edge of a man-made reservoir.

VOCALIZATION (call/song; how delivered-perched, in flight; frequency; duration):

None heard.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

SWAINSON'S WARBLER (*Limnethlypis swainsonii*): Rather plain appearing like H. vermicularis but has a reddish-brown cap and lacks bold, black head striping.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus noveboracensis*): Lacks bold head striping. Heavily streaked and spotted on underparts.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus motacilla*): Lacks bold head striping. Streaked and spotted on underparts.

OVENBIRD (*Seiurus aurocapillus*): Has orange crown bordered by dark stripes. Heavily marked with dark brown spots on underparts.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

WORM-EATING WARBLER: Seen regularly each spring on Long Island, NY during the 1950's. Also seen in Georgetown Co., SC and in Southern Texas. Seen twice before in CO: May 7, 1985 at Pruitt Reservoir SWA, Washington Co. and May 13, 1992 at Muir Springs Park, Morgan Co.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Seen but once in nearly 60 years of bird-watching: a single bird was seen in the "Ball Brothers Woods", Boulder, CO. on May 21, 1975.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: Seen many times since 1990's at various places in U.S.: NY, IL, SC, TX, CO and Alaska.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH: Seen on several occasions over the years in SC, TX and once in CO: May 14, 1983 at Comey State Recreation Area, Guma Co.

OVENBIRD: Seen many, many birds in IL, NY, SC, TX, MN and CO during past 60 years.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

None required.

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING X AFTER X OBSERVATION; FROM MEMORY

NAME: JACK REDDALL

SIGNATURE: Jack Reddall

DATE: May 21, 1994

Accepted

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

|X|

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Worm-eating Warbler Heemitheros vermivorus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date: May 14, 1994Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Unknown Plumage: constant?Locality: west (inlet) end of Bonny Reservoir Elevation: 3700' ±Nearest town: Idalia County: YumaTime observed: about 12 noonDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1 minute

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

None

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

good - fairly open area - sun high in the skyOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8X binocularsDistance, and how measured: 75 feet estimatedIf photographed, type of equipment and film: NoWho else photographed the bird? _____

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Feeding in a tangle of roots of a blown-down tree, slowly near the ground.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

A medium-sized warbler with a plain ~~dark~~ olive-brown back with no wing bars. The head was streaked with 4 longitudinal black stripes and 3 pale olive-brown stripes all of which were quite wide. (over)

Description (continued):

The illustrations in both field guides show the lighter vent to be buffy. I did not get that impression. The breast was pale brown - again not as buffy as the illustrations. The bill was long and slim.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

No sound

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

The Bonny Swamp ~~is~~ lies between two cattail marshes at the west (inlet) end of Bonny Reservoir. It contains tall cottonwoods and a fringe of willows next to the water ~~with~~ scattered small bushes. This down-down tree was on the edge of the willow growth.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

There is no other small bird in North America with a striped head pattern like a Worm-eating Warbler. A Swainson's Warbler has a solid cap. An Olive Sparrow has a stubby bill and narrower stripes on the head.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen 3 Worm-eating Warblers at Bonny. I'm working on a 4-year cycle.
May 18, 1986 in the Swamp
May 15, 1990 at Wagon Wheel Campground
May 14, 1994 in the Swamp
This is the only place in Colorado that I have seen the bird

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: Birds of North America National Geographic
Birds of North America Golden Guide

This report was written from reports made during _____, after observation _____ from memory X

Date and time report was written: May 17, 1994

Reporting observer: L. W. Dan Bridges Signature: L. W. Dan Bridges

Address: 1925 J. Vaughn Way #207 Aurora CO 80014

Return to:

Bill Prather

C.F.O. Official Records Committee

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