

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

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UNUSUAL RECORD

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

Species: **Worm-eating Warbler**
(Vernacular Name)**Helmitheros vermivorus**
(Scientific Name)Date(s): **May 17, 1996**Number of birds seen: **1**

Sex:

Plumage: **Adult**Locality: **near Wagon Wheel Campground, Bonny Reservoir**
Nearest town: **Burlington, CO**Elevation: **3600'**
County: **Yuma**Time(s) observed: **7:00am**Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): **10 min**Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers): **John F. Barber, 1700 Clearview Court, Ft Collins, CO**Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):
noneLight conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light): **Sun was behind observers on two separate viewing occasions and locations; the bird was perched on fairly open branches (few leaves), presenting clear views in good light.**Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): **10X binoculars**Distance, and how measured: **15 feet at closest; estimated**If photographed, type of equipment and film: **No photos**Who else photographed the bird? **none known**Describe the birds behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying): **First seen while singing on an open branch, then feeding in 20 foot tall deciduous trees within a high canopy, forested area. It moved along tree branches as it fed, stopping occasionally to sing. Flew from tree to tree about three times before we lost it as it moved generally from south to north.**

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:

Thin, long bill, warbler shape and size. First impression was that of a dull brown above with a much

Description (continued):

lighter shade of buff to olive below. Unstreaked below. Significant field mark was the heavily striped crown, with light buffy to orange streaks that contrasted with dark blackish streaks that made the head really stand out. Face was buffy with dark eye. The bird actually leaned over, as it faced toward the observers, when it was reaching to feed on the underside of a branch, and clearly showed the very top of its head down to the nape. The pattern on crown was sharp, boldly streaked and unique. Tail was average for a warbler, and there were no wingbars.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): Dry, chip notes given in rapid series (trill), suggestive of a Chipping Sparrow or Pine Warbler, but unique to this species. Reverberated through the forest. It called from exposed perch each time, craning its head as it did, then resumed feeding.

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

Open, variable height, deciduous woodland. Below tree was a mix of dense ladder-type shrubs and smaller trees, with a wet, marshy area in part of the forest.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

I am really at a loss to describe any species which we might have confused with this bird as we saw it so well and heard it call a number of times. The brown upperparts, buffy-orange-brown striping of crown is not similar to any species very closely. All sparrows were eliminated by colorations, habits, call, and bill shape; Other warblers eliminated by bold pattern of crown, lack of streaking and wing bars, among other items noted above.

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

I have seen this species many times.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification: (none needed after look we had and familiarity of observers)

a) at time of observation: None

b) after observation: National Geographic

This report was written from reports made during after observation **XX** from memory

Date and time report was written: May 25, 1996

Reporting observer: Bill Lisowsky

Signature:



Address: 2919 Silverplume Drive Ft Collins, CO 80526