

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

|XX|

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: **at the Last Chance Rest Stop**
Nearest town: **Last Chance, CO**

Elevation: **3600'**

County: ~~Yuma~~ **Washington**

Time(s) observed: **1:00pm**

Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): **10-15 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):
none

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light): **Sun was behind observers most of the times; the bird was perched on an open branch once and then later on the ground below the observers, presenting clear views when in the open.**

Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): **10X binoculars**

Distance, and how measured: **25 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 feeding on an open branch, then moving along other branches about 15 feet above the ground in a dense area. It quickly disappeared but was relocated several minutes later as it worked close to the ground along the edge of waterway.**

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. The first look I had was of the crown, as the bird was feeding

Description (continued):

along a horizontal branch. (Having seen another of this species only hours before at Bonny Reservoir, it was instantly recognizable.) The heavily striped crown, with light buffy to orange streaks that contrasted with dark blackish streaks made the head really stand out. Upperparts were brownish olive and underparts were a much lighter shade of buff. Face was buffy with dark eye. Several minutes later, both observers actually looked down on the bird, giving tremendous and complete looks at all the head and upperparts and as it worked through the underbrush, the rest of the bird. 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):
None heard.

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

A small area, with variable height, deciduous woodland adjacent to retention pond and fed by a number of road culverts. The underbrush was dense but opened up in spots. We observed the bird in a small tree and in the underbrush, adjacent to and just above a small "puddle" of water.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

There are no species which we might have confused with this bird as we saw it so well. The brown upperparts, buffy-orange-brown striping of crown is not similar to any species very closely. All sparrows were eliminated by colorations, habits, 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**