

CFO-ORC-FILE# 1998-133

✓ rec'd 12-98

PHOTOS x 2

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

color  
(attached to  
record 1998-161)

Results: ACCEPTED (7-0)

Species:

Worm-eating Warbler

Helmitheros vermivorus

Dates: 5/3/98

Number of birds seen: one

Sex: ?

Plumage: alternate

Locality: Lamar Community College woods

Elevation: about 4000 feet I think

Nearest town: Lamar

County: Prowers

Time observed: not noted

Duration of observation: not noted

Other observers with you: Ric Olson, Bob Spencer, others I can't recall

Other observers who saw the bird independently:

Light conditions: not noted

Optical equipment: Leica 10x42 Ultras; photo taken with Canon A2E using Sigma 400 APO MACRO lens

Distance from bird: as close as 15 feet

Describe the bird's behavior: it was on the ground a lot. sometimes was up to 20 feet high in trees.

Describe the bird (what you actually saw):

wings: not noted

back: solid olive or olive-green

head: 2 crown stripes, 2 eye stripes - buffy in between. spike shaped bill

underparts: warm buffy breast, legs pink

tail: same color as back

Describe the bird's song and call if heard: not noted

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: somewhat open evergreen woods near a small creek

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

Swainson's Warbler: eliminated by buffy underparts, dark crown stripes and eye stripes

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species: Perhaps a dozen Worm-eating Warblers, no Swainson's Warblers.

List books if they helped in your identification: Birds of North America (NGS)

This report was written from notes taken during x, or after observation or from memory. I used a microcassette recorder to record my

observations while I was observing the bird. I transcribed the tape to written notes within a day or two of observation and wrote this from the written notes on 10/25/98.

Reporting observer:

David W. Quesenberry

Signature: David W. Quesenberry

Address:

6254 S. Elmira Cir

Englewood, CO 80111

## COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

## WORM-EATING WARBLER

Helmitheros vermivorusLocation: Lamar Community College grove/Willow Creek; Lamar; Prowers County, ColoradoDate: May 8-9, 1998Background:

This bird was previously discovered during the C.F.O. convention and was seen by many on this day and the next, including Percival, Dickson, Olson, Quesenberry, Dunn and others. The area is a rather dense tangle of trees along a sheltered slough. On the 8th we found it about 8:40 a.m. and observed it for about 15 minutes; on the 9th for about 15 minutes at 8:15 a.m. It foraged about 5-20 feet high in the trees. It was somewhat vireo-like, probing leaves and sometimes acted like a nuthatch or chickadee, creeping or hanging sideways. I observed it with binoculars (B & L Elites, 10x42) at close range (20' - 50').

Description:

This bird was about 5" long. It was overall dull, brownish, with dark eyes, darkish bill and pinkish legs. This was a plain-colored, medium-sized warbler (about 5" long). Overall it was rather dingy, compact, plain, short-tailed and big-billed. It had a prominent mainly dark bill, that was large for a warbler, chisel-like and sharp. The upperparts (back, wings, rump and tail) were a plain, faint olive-brown. The undersides were lighter - plain tan. There were no wingbars. The face and throat were richly buff colored and lighter than the upperparts. There were dark lateral crown stripes and a dark superciliary. The crown stripes were separated by a buff central crown stripe and there was a buffy-colored superciliary.

Similar Species:

The slender shape and long, slender, pointed bill rule out sparrows. Vireos have heavy, slightly hooked bills. Warbling Vireo is chunkier, and lacks the head stripes. Philadelphia Vireo has yellow tones totally lacking in this bird and lacks the black head stripes. Tennessee Warbler is a smaller bird, has whiter underparts, a gray crown and lacks the head stripes. Orange-crowned Warbler lacks the crown stripes and is yellower below. Virginia's and Nashville warblers have yellow breasts and lack the head stripes. Female Black-throated Blue Warbler shows a whitish spot in the wing and lacks the crown stripes. Swainson's Warbler lacks the strong buff tones to the foreparts, has a vaguely rufous cap and possess a dark brown, not black, eyestripe.

Experience with Species:

I have seen Worm-eating Warblers four times before in Colorado. I have seen others, including many during spring migration on the Texas coast. I have seen all other similar birds discussed above.

This report is prepared from notes made soon after observation.



Mark Janos  
10 Sedum Ct.  
Pueblo, CO 81001



# COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

RESULTS: neid 5-10-98 ✓

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

SPECIES: Worm Eating Warbler Helmitheros vermivorus  
(COMMON NAME) (SCIENTIFIC NAME)DATE(S) OF OCCURRENCE: 5-3-98NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: one SEX: ? PLUMAGE: BREEDING?EXACT LOCATION: Approx 50 yards EAST of the South gate AT Lamar Comm College NEAR the Lone Juniper Tree  
CLOSEST TO THE CANALCOUNTY: Prowers NEAREST TOWN: Lamar ELEVATION: 3300LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 5 mins TIMES(S) OF OBSERVATION: ~ 10:00 AM (TIME NOT NOTED)OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S): George ARMSTRONG, Dave QUESENBERY, Bob Spencer, Vic Zerbe, Allan VERSAW, John & Lisa ROWINSKI (spelling?)

LIGHT CONDITIONS [QUALITY; DIRECTION RELATIVE TO BIRD(S); POSITION]:

- SHADE of overhead cottonwoods - sky CLEAR, High sun

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: ZISSL 10x40DISTANCE FROM BIRD (ESTIMATED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED): 35 - 50 FEETWAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED: YES IF SO, HAVE YOU SUBMITTED PHOTOS? NOWHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS? DAVE QUESENBERY

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD(S) OCCURRED:

General - River Riparianspecific - undercover - 3-4 inch grass with broken limbs of cottonwoods, one large juniper tree - dense bottom growth - widely open cottonwood (no low branches)

DESCRIBE THE BIRD'S BEHAVIOR (FLYING; FEEDING; HABITS; BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORTING THE IDENTIFICATION):

The Bird was 1st NOTICED on the ground on a broken limb walking on & off the branch. It then flew to a ~~more~~ denser clump of branches (appeared to be hiding) about 2 feet off the ground. then dropped down to the base of the branches for awhile. It then flew to the juniper (3 feet off ground) then back to the original branch on the ground. Then it flew to a short dead branch on a near by cottonwood tree (8 feet off the ground). AT THIS point DAVE QUESENBERY started to take pictures of the bird. It slowly worked its way south & west into the more open cottonwood area with DAVE pursuing it for pictures.



DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. INCLUDE OVERALL SIZE AND SHAPE, AND HOW YOU PLACED THE BIRD IN THE GENERAL GROUP THAT YOU DID. GIVE COMPLETE DETAILS OF PLUMAGE, INCLUDING HEAD, THROAT, UNDERSIDES, NAPE, BACK, WINGS, AND TAIL. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO MARKS YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD(S). DESCRIBE OTHER DETAILS, SUCH AS COLOR AND SHAPE OF BILL, LEGS, EYE, ETC. THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MAKING THE IDENTIFICATION. (FILL OUT THIS PORTION EVEN IF PHOTOGRAPHS ARE SUBMITTED; YOU MAY ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, DRAWINGS, FIELD SKETCHES, OR COPY OF FIELD NOTES):

SMALL-NERVOUS BIRD THAT WOULD NOT SIT STILL, IT APPEARED SOMEWHAT BILL SHAPED & NECK LESS.

HEAD - CENTRAL CROWN STRIPE - BUFFY-YELLOW TO NAPE  
LATERAL CROWN STRIPES - BROWN/BLACK TO NAPE  
SUPERCILIUM STRIPES - BUFFY-YELLOW TO NAPE - SLIGHTLY DARKER THAN CENTRAL CROWN STRIPE  
LORES & EYE STRIPES - BROWN/BLACK TO NAPE  
THROAT - BUFFY-YELLOW SOMEWHAT GRAY & DIRTY LOOKING WITH OUT SPOTS OR STREAKING  
NAPE BROWNISH OLIVE GREEN

BODY - BREAST, BELLY - BUFFY-YELLOW/WHITE (LIGHTER THAN THROAT & UNDER TAIL COVERTS)  
UNDER TAIL COVERTS - DIRTY BUFFY YELLOW BECOMING BROWNISH OLIVE GREEN MATCH COLOR OF TAIL.

NAPE, BACK, UPPER TAIL COVERTS - BROWNISH OLIVE GREEN

TAIL - BROWNISH OLIVE GREEN WITH OUT SPOTS

WINGS - BROWNISH OLIVE GREEN WITH OUT BARS OR MARKINGS

SOFT PARTS - BILL - PALE TAN - LIGHTER MANDIBLE - THIN BUT APPEAR LONG FOR HEAD  
EYES - BLACK  
LEGS - PINK - (BUBBLEGUM PINK)

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM:

BIRD WAS INITIALLY IDENTIFIED AS AN OVENBIRD HOWEVER NO EYERING, BREAST WAS CLEAR GREEN STRIPES WERE WRONG PATTERN

LECONTE'S SPARROW - BILL TOO LONG, UNIFORM COLOR TO BACK & WINGS, TAIL NO STREAKING ON FEMURS

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILAR APPEARING SPECIES?

LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH WICKEN EATING (4 REWARDS). MODERATE EXPERIENCE WITH OVENBIRD & LECONTE'S SPARROW.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION):

NAT. GEO 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION BIRDS OF N.A.

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM <sup>TYPED</sup>NOTES MADE DURING X OR AFTER \_\_\_\_\_ OBSERVATION, OR LATER FROM MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 5-4-98

REPORTING OBSERVER: RIC OLSON SIGNATURE: ROZ

SEND REPORT TO: MARK JANOS, 10 SEDUM COURT, PUEBLO, CO 81001

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CASTLE ROCK CO 80104  
3037907753



**Worm-eating Warbler**  
**Lamar Community College 5/3/98** 0/2  
1998-133