

Recd
7/8/99

CFO-RC FILE#: _____

1999 - 147

**COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGHT RECORD FORM**

ACCEPT 7-0

SPECIES: WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorus*)

DATE(S) and TIME OF OCCURRENCE: May 8, 1999, 7:45 am

NUMBER(S) OF BIRDS SEEN: One

SEX: ?

PLUMAGE: Adult

LOCATION: Two Buttes Reservoir

COUNTY: Prowers

NEAREST TOWN: Lamar

ELEVATION: 4600

LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 10 minutes

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY SAW THE BIRD(S): Lisa Rawinski, Jerry and Tanner Poe got to see it. We told others about the bird.

LIGHT CONDITIONS (Quality and Relationship to Bird) Sunny, clear, warm, sun high in sky to the east and we saw bird to the west so bird was perfectly side-lit.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED: Swarovski 8X30's

DISTANCE FROM BIRD (Estimated unless otherwise noted) as close as 15 feet

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED? No

WHO TOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHS?

DESCRIBE THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC HABITAT IN WHICH THE BIRD OCCURRED: Riparian willow and cottonwood habitat, bird was in lower and mid canopy of trees and shrubs.

DESCRIBE THE BIRDS BEHAVIOR (FLYING, FEEDING, HABITS, BEHAVIORS USED IN IDENTIFYING THE SPECIES OR IN SUPPORT OF THE IDENTIFICATION): Bird was feeding by gleaning food from branches of willows and cottonwood trees. Flying branch to branch.

DESCRIBE THE BIRD IN DETAIL. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS REPORT. GIVE PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO THE MARKS/FEATURES YOU USED TO IDENTIFY THE BIRD. (Include size, shape, plumage, tail etc.) The bird seemed slightly bigger than an American Redstart that we had been seeing nearby. Certainly more plumper than the Redstart too. Head was buff cream colored with bold distinct dark brown crown stripes and eye-stripes. Light cream colored supercilium. Eye dark. Bill thick for a warbler, tapering, and light brown in color. Throat and undersides buff color, unstreaked. Back olive greenish buff color, darker than undersides. Legs light colored. Tail dark grayish brown. Wings olive/buff color with no wingbars.

DESCRIBE SONG/CALLS IF ANY: Made a juicy tseet chip call.

DISCUSS SIMILAR SPECIES AND HOW YOU ELIMINATED THEM: Not a vireo based on thick but tapering bill, pointed warbler bill. Ovenbird and Waterthrushes would have streaked breasts. Swainsons Warbler not as boldly streaked on crown.

WHAT IS YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES? I have seen this bird in Connecticut, Colorado, Texas. Lisa and I have seen this species in Colorado and Yucatan, Mexico.

LIST BOOKS, GUIDES, RECORDINGS, OR OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED AND HOW THIS INFLUENCED YOUR IDENTIFICATION (DURING AND AFTER OBSERVATION). National Geographic after observation.

HOW RARE IS THIS BIRD FOR THIS AREA? For the State, unusual to rare. More and more being seen lately as more birders get out during migration.

THIS REPORT WAS MADE FROM... Notes taken the day of observation.

DATE OF WRITTEN REPORT: 5/26/99

REPORTING OBSERVER: Lisa J. and John J. Rawinski

SIGNATURES

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

John J. Rawinski
Lisa J. Rawinski