

R- 7 Nov 01

Colorado Record No: Z001-101
Colorado Rare Bird Report Documentation Form

Common Name: WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivora*

Numbers Seen: One

Distance: 15 to 40 feet

Light conditions: Sunny, clear, 70 degrees, we were south of bird. Sun was to west on 14th. Same on 15th except sun was to east. Optical Equipment: Swarovski 8X30.

Sex and Age: Adult

Location: At the Alamosa Golf Course. Just south of the driving range. In Russian Olive trees lining a small frogpond. Bird was feeding on insects in the Olive trees. It would feed along side of the Black-throated Blue Warbler it was with. Other warblers were present as well.

County: Alamosa County. Date and Time of Observation: October 14, 2001 1500 to 1600. October 16, 2001 1600 to 1700.

Description of the Bird(s): The bird was first found by Lisa as she was watching the Black-throated Blue Warbler and we were waiting for Jerry Poe to arrive from Monte Vista. It was about the size of the Black-throated Blue Warbler, measuring about 5 to 5 1/2 inches in length. It was staying close to the dense cover of brush but also gave us very close and clear looks at this species. A rather plump warbler, it was rich olive on the upper parts and buffy on the underparts. Its bill was longer than most warblers and slightly decurved. It was pale on lower mandible and darker on upper mandible. Face and head were buffy with a dark eye line going through a dark eye. A dark brown crown stripe on each side of the head was prominent and distinct. Back, wings and tail were olive colored. Throat, breast, belly and undertail was buffy color.

Habitat: Russian olives next to a small wetland.

Behavior: Feeding and flying. Staying no higher than 15 feet off the ground in thick shrubs and trees. Feeding amongst other warblers.

Vocalizations: None

Differentiation from Similar Species: Not a Carolina Wren due to presence of olive back, and dark lateral crown stripes. No other warbler has this combination of olive uppers, buffy undersides and dark eye stripe and lateral crown stripes. Not Golden-crowned Kinglet because this bird lacked gold on crown and wingbars.

Previous Experience with this Species: Have seen this species numerous times in South-eastern Colorado; Connecticut, and Texas.

Others who observed this species: Lisa Rawinski, Jerry Poe.

Significance (How rare is this for the area, optional) There are no records for this species in the San Luis Valley.

Was the bird Photographed? No.

Report was made 1 day after last observation.

Observer and Signature: John J. Rawinski Date: October 17, 2001

Send to: Tony Leukering, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 13401 Picadilly Road, Brighton, CO 80601