

Rare Bird Report

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Brookings, OR97415
541 469-1043

Worm-eating Warbler (*helmitheros vermivora*)

1 individual - unknown sex and age, apparent adult plumage

My observation date October 9, 2012 approximately 11 a.m. -
subsequently observed by others (Namitz et al.)

Location: Along Carpenterville Road, a few hundred feet south of
intersection with access road to Hwy 101 in the community of Pistol
River,
Curry County, Oregon

<https://maps.google.com/> - 42.267802,-124.39814

Habitat: Dense willows to about 10 feet high with annual grasses
occupying the lowest two feet, low dense clump of Sitka Spruce and
scattered areas of blackberries.

Details: On the two separate viewing opportunities the bird was
partially obscured from behind the legs to tail due to vegetation. The
bird was approximately the size of a nearby Common Yellowthroat,
drab --- head and breast dull yellowish with dark head stripes from
base of bill to nape area, one through the eye the other on the side of
the crown. The upper parts/back were plain brownish olive, no wing
bars or other contrasting features, flat head accentuating the largish
bill, similar to a Meadowlark on a smaller scale. The legs were fleshy
neutral. It was perched low in the willows for about 10 seconds then
flew across the road to low in the dense Spruce for about 5 seconds

then it disappeared. Other nearby species were Black-capped Chickadee, Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Wrentit, Common Yellowthroat, Fox, Song, Lincoln's, White-crowned and Gold-crowned Sparrows. All were responding to pishing. I did not hear any vocalization from the subject bird.

I am familiar with this species due to a previous sighting (Curry County, 11/1/2001) So it was not necessary to consult a reference. I am not aware of any other possible species with this combination of field marks.

The weather was clear with full sun behind me. The distance to the bird was approximately 35 feet yielding good views with Nikon 10x32 binoculars.

Other observer - Buzz Stewart, P.O. Box 1144, Brookings, OR97415

No photos were obtained.