

# Note

FIRST RECORD OF A WORM-EATING WARBLER FOR NORTH DAKOTA — On 20 April 1980 I observed a Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmintheros vermivorus*) in the Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Forks. This is the first recorded sighting of this species in North Dakota. The bird was observed for an hour at that time, then later that afternoon by five other observers. It was last seen early the next morning.

When the bird was first sighted, photographs were obtained and a close observation was made of the bird and its habits. It was identified as a Worm-eating Warbler by its warbler size, flesh-colored legs and bill, black and buff-striped head, and plain, olive-brown back, wings, and underparts.

The bird was foraging on the ground as well as the tops of several of the taller trees. Occasionally, it gave a buzzy call in 1-3 repetitions and it sang on several occasions. The song was a trill similar to that of a Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*).

The status of the Worm-eating Warbler in Minnesota is listed as casual (Green, J. C. and R. B. Janssen. 1975. Minnesota birds: where, when, and how many. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.) with eight spring records and one fall record all in southern Minnesota. It is also listed as casual in South Dakota (Whitney, N. R., B. E. Harrell, B. K. Harris, N. Holden, J. W. Johnson, B. J. Rose, and P. F. Springer. 1978. The Birds of South Dakota. South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, Vermillion.) where there are eight spring records in the eastern half of the state. The Worm-eating Warbler in Grand Forks was eight days earlier than any of the records listed for Minnesota or South Dakota. — Greg S. Lambeth, 1909 20th Ave. S., Grand Forks, ND 58201.