

Species: Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*)
Global Rank: G5
State Rank: S4
State Wildlife Action Plan Priority: Responsibility Concern Species
Climate Change Vulnerability Index: Not Vulnerable/Presumed Stable
Confidence: Very High

Habitat:

Worm-eating Warblers breed mostly east of the Allegheny Front (Ridge and Valley, Piedmont and Blue Ridge provinces) in wooded hillsides with dense understory (rhododendron, mountain laurel) and sometimes wet lowlands with dense shrub cover (McWilliams and Brauning 2000).

Current Threats:

Worm-eating Warblers are among the species most sensitive to forest fragmentation (McWilliams and Brauning 2000). Destruction of wintering habitat in the West Indies and Central America is also a threat to the species (Brauning 1992).

Main Factors Contributing to Vulnerability Rank:

Although Worm-eating Warblers may be sensitive to certain climate change related factors addressed in the CCVI, such as predicted land use impacts designed to mitigate against climate change and a migration route that includes few locations where conditions may be compromised by climate change, the CCVI rank is not vulnerable/presumed stable. Available evidence does not suggest that abundance and/or range extent within Pennsylvania will change (increase/decrease) substantially by 2050. However, actual range boundaries may change.

Literature Cited:

Brauning, D.W. 1992. Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania. University of Pittsburgh Press. Pittsburgh, PA, 484pp.

McWilliams, G.M. and D.W. Brauning. 2000. The Birds of Pennsylvania. Comstock Publ. Assoc., Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY.