

Species: Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*)
Global Rank: G5
State Rank: S4B
State Wildlife Action Plan: Responsibility 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 the worm-eating warbler 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, 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, but actual range boundaries may change. However, additional stressors that may affect the species are not considered in the CCVI and should also be evaluated when planning conservation related actions.

References:

- 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.