

52-73-75  
accepted JR  
12/9/73

NO. 15

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGIST

MARCH 1973

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

1. Species: Prothonotary Warbler | Protonotaria citrea 2. Number: 1  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: CF & I Reservoirs, below the dam on the lower level reservoir
4. Date(s): May 3, 1973 5. Time bird seen: 4 pm to 4:10 pm
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field): This bird was a bit larger than most warblers--larger than a Yellow Warbler yet not quite the size of a Northern Waterthrush. Its most striking field marks were a yellow gold head, face, and breast with contrasting blue-gray wings and tail. (I did not look for nor do I remember seeing white in the tail. I only learned about this field mark after my observation.) I was also able to observe the prominent heavy black bill. The brilliant colors on this bird has caused me to believe it was a male.
7. Description of voice, if heard: I did not hear it sing.
8. Description of behavior: The bird moved low in small willows but was not shy. It seemed to prefer the company of a flock of Audubon and
9. Habitat - general: Myrtle Warblers. It stayed near yet apart from the flock.  
specific: Lakeshore--willows, reeds, and cattails
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:  
The bird I observed was larger than Yellow and Blue-winged Warblers. It lacked the red stripes of the Yellow Warbler and the wing bars of the Blue-winged. *It was more gold than either.*
11. Distance (how measured?): I observed the bird at an estimated 10 yards. This is an estimate, for I used no measuring devices.
12. Optical equipment: 7 x 50 Tasco binocular
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):  
Sky was clear, and the sun at my back resulting in good light conditions.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I am very familiar with this bird as it nested near my previous home near St. Louis, Missouri
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?  
On the DFO Checklist there were two asterisks by Prothonotary Warbler.
16. Other observers:  
There were no others with me at the time I observed it.
17. Did others agree with your identification?
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Van Truan of Pueblo saw the bird on May 4 but after he learned it was there. He also identified it as I did.
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation: Peterson, Field Guide to the Birds (Boston, 1959). The picture in this book influenced my decision very little since I was already familiar with the
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used: bird.

David A. Silberman Signature  
Street Address: 2214 WEST STREET  
PUEBLO, COLORADO 81003  
Date Prepared: July 3, 1973 City and State: PUEBLO, COLORADO, 81003

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)



COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN UNUSUAL RECORD

52-73-75  
accepted *gr*  
12/9/73

1. Species: PROTHONOTARY WARBLER | Protonotaria citrea 2. Number: 1  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)
3. Location: GEEI Lakes, Pueblo Co., Colorado
4. Date(s): May 4, 1973 5. Time bird seen: 9:30 to 9:45 AM
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern. (Describe in great detail all parts of the plumage including beak and feet coloration in addition to the diagnostic characteristics; however, include only what actually was seen in the field):  
  
I was told there was a prothonotary warbler on the marshy part of the lower lake. I went to this location and searched for about 45 minutes before I saw a large yellowish-orange warbler with a fairly long black bill. I noted the head was plain and that there was no wing bars. The back was a greenish-blue and the wings were bluish-gray. The bird had white from the under coverts to its legs. The tail had a little white in it.
7. Description of voice, if heard: No voice heard.
8. Description of behavior: The bird was with Audubon's warblers moving through the tamarisk.
9. Habitat--general: Lake marsh  
specific: cattails, Tamarisk and Russian olives
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated 6, 7 and 8 above; Explain:  
blue-winged warbler-wing bars
11. Distance (how measured?): 15-20 ft. estimated
12. Optical equipment: 7x35 binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and observer):  
Sky clear-I moved to get good light on the bird
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
The bird was a lifer.
15. What made you think this species was unusual or rare?  
I knew it was the first area record.
16. Other observers: None.
17. Did others agree with your identification?  
yes.
18. Other observers who independently identified this bird:  
Dave Silverman
19. Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation:  
Birds of N. America was used directly while observing it.
20. If bird was photographed, please attach pictures and describe equipment used:  
No photos.

Signature *W. A. T. T.* Street Address: 2510 Elizabeth  
Date Prepared: July 10, 1973 City and State: Pueblo, Colorado 81003

(USE THE REVERSE, OR ADDITIONAL PAGES, IF NECESSARY)