

52-77-27

Species: PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Protonotaria citrea

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 7, 1977

Time Bird Seen: EARLY MORNING

APR 0730

to OBSERVED 10-15 MIN

Locality: 1/4 MILE NW OF (STERLING?) GRAVEL COMPANY

Nearest Town: FORT COLLINS

County: LARIMER

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	CSU	TELEPHONE
DR. DALE HEIN	DEPT FISH & WILDL.	FORT COLLINS CO	491-6510
WENDY HAAS	"	"	"

Optical Equipment: BUSHNELL 7X35 WIDE ANGLE

If photographed, type of equipment used: NONE

Light Conditions: EXCELLENT

Distance from bird (how measured): 40-50 FEET - ESTIMATED

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: BREEDING

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The bird was moving through the branches ~~feeding~~ feeding + calling. It ate something off the foliage rather than on the wing. It fluttered from branch to branch from tree top to nearly ground level.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

It was 4.5 inches in length + typical warbler shape. Its bill was narrow (not vireo-like) and black. The head + chest was gold or orange tinged, the belly was yellow. The wings + tail were grey + its back was olive greenish. There were no wing bars. ~~also~~ I did not notice the color of the undertail coverts.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

I do not recall the bird's call. It did call while perched from a branch.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

The bird was observed in a grove of trees bordering a small pond near the Poudre River.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

It was warbler shape, size, behavior etc.

The color eliminated most warblers.

It had no wing bars.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I had never seen this species before. I have seen yellow + Wilson's warblers which have predominantly yellow heads.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds of N. Amer. by Robbins, Brown + Zim. I made the identification based on the illustrations + description in this book.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory ☒

PRINT NAME: STEPHEN H. BOUFFARD SIGNATURE: Stephen H. Bouffard DATE: 31 May 77

Street Address: 127 N. SHERWOOD Town and State: FORT COLLINS CO ZIP: 80521

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD☐ NEW STATE RECORD☒ ACCEPTED☐ REJECTED 9/28/77

52-77-27

Species: PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Protonotaria citrea

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 7, 1977

Time Bird Seen: _____ to _____

Locality: _____

Nearest Town: Ft. Collins

County: Larimer

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Dr. Dale Hein c/o Wildlife Dept. CSU Ft. Collins Co. 80521

Optical Equipment: None

If photographed, type of equipment used: NA

Light Conditions: NA

Distance from bird (how measured): Judgement - 30 feet

Number of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: 1♂, 1♀ Plumage: Breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Both male and female were sitting on a branch about 30 feet in front of me. Both birds remained on the branch for at least 2-3 minutes without changing position on the branch.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Bird was between 4½ & 5 in. in length. The overall shape looked like a typical warbler. Plumage on one was a bright orange-yellow on the head, olive green on back and a yellow belly. The other was yellow on breast and belly and olive on back. Both had brownish-grey wings and white patches under the tail. There were no marks on the head, belly, or back. Both had dark bills that were sharp, pointed--warbler-like. Tail was dark - but couldn't get really good look at it. Both had large, dark eyes. Identifying marks were color; lack of markings on head, back & belly; general shape; and size.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

none heard

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Along a stream bottom, vegetation was tall trees - mostly cottonwoods.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Blue-winged warbler: lack of wing bars, size and color, olive warbler: lack of face mask, color, yellow warbler: lack of breast streaking, size and color, Willson's warbler: Lack of black cap, color.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

Fairly limited, but lack of experience makes me more cautious and will call a bird unidentified rather than risk a bad call.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Birds, of North America, (Robbins, Bruun, Zim, & Singer)

A Field Guide to Western Birds (Roger Tory Peterson)

This report was written from notes made during _____ after _____ observation; from memory ☒

PRINT NAME: Donna Vinal SIGNATURE: Donna M. Vinal DATE: July 7, 1977

Street Address: 6542 Tahawash St. Town and State: Cochiti Lake, N.M. ZIP: 87041

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

52-77-27
52-77-27

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD

☐ NEW STATE RECORD

☒ ACCEPTED

☐ REJECTED

Species: PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Protonotaria citrea

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 2, 1977

Time Bird Seen: ca 0830?

to + 10 Minutes

Locality: Gravel pits W of Poudre R., ca. 3 km E of Ft. Collins.

Nearest Town: Fort Collins

County: Larimer

Other observers who independently identified this bird: (same party)

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Stephen Bouffard, Donna Vinal & Wendy Haas (studentc) C/o Dept. Fish. & Wildlife,
Colo. St. U., Ft. Collins, Colo. 80523

Ken Wolgemuth, c/o Dept. Zool. & Ent., CSU, Ft. Collins, CO 80523

Optical Equipment: 7 X 35 binoculars

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: "good" - overcast but bright.

Distance from bird (how measured): ca. 10 m (estimated) ---possibly closer part of time.

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: Breeding (bright)

(two members of party believe they saw two different males; I saw only one)

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Frequent movement among outer branches of newly-leaved cottonwood and willow, but not as "flitty" as many arblers commonly are. Bird seemed undisturbed by closeness and voices of the observers.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Warbler size (appeared slightly larger than yellow-rumped, the warbler I see most often). Body was all yellow with head and neck orange-tinged. Wings were blue-gray without bars. No eye ring or other head markings were seen. Bill was thin and straight---typical warbler shape and size. Lower abdomen was whitish--lighter than body. No distinctive tail characteristics were seen. Orange-yellow coloring was bright!

I took special note of this bird and watched it for 5 to 10 minutes because I had not previously identified it in Colorado, although I had seen it in previous years in eastern states. I was unaware that it was so rare in Colorado, or I would have tried to photograph it.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

I did not identify the call or song. I do not hear high-pitched sounds well; other members of the group who saw this bird may have heard and identified vocalizations.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

The bird was 2-5 m above ground in cottonwoods approximately 10 m tall. The bird moved frequently in the outer branches of the trees. The cottonwoods and a few willows bordered abandoned gravel pits near the Cache la Poudre River. Other birds seen in the same trees included rose-breasted grosbeak, R-w blackbirds,

How were similarly appearing species eliminated? chipping sparrows and unident. warblers.

I know of no other species that closely resembles the prothonotary warbler. This bird had blue-gray wings, no wing bars, no markings on the orange-yellow head, a thin straight bill, and was warbler-size. Thus, other "yellow birds", such as yellowthroat, yellow warbler, goldfinches, and orioles and vireos of this region were easily eliminated.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I have identified the prothonotary warbler in Pennsylvania and Iowa. There is no doubt in my mind that this was the species I saw in Colorado.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

After tentative identification was made, the bird was compared in the field with the illustrations in Birds of North America by Robbins, Braun & Zim. The bird and the picture seemed to agree exactly.

This report was written from notes made during _____ after ☒ observation; from memory _____ (see note below)

PRINT NAME: Dale Hein SIGNATURE: DHein DATE: 23 May 1977
Street Address: 1501 Stover St. Town and State: Ft. Collins, COLO ZIP: 80521

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110

Observation was recorded on forms used for Audubon Spring Count on 7 May 1977. This report is made from memory and from reference to field notes that day.

☒ RARE OR UNUSUAL RECORD☐ NEW STATE RECORD☒ ACCEPTED ☐ REJECTED *9/21/77*Species: PROTHONOTARY WARBLERProtonotaria citrea

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 7, 1977Time Bird Seen: about 0800 to about 0810Locality: along Poudre River about 1/2 km north of Prospect St.Nearest Town: Fort Collins, Co.County: Larimer

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Steve Bouffard Dept. Fishery & Wildl. Biol. CSU, Fort Collins, Co. unknownDr. Dale Hein " " " " " "Optical Equipment: Bushnell Broadfield Compact binoculars 10x40

If photographed, type of equipment used:

Light Conditions: slightly overcast, good diffused lightingDistance from bird (how measured): 10 to 15 meters estimatedNumber of Birds Seen: 2 Sex: male Plumage: breeding

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

Bird was flying back and forth among the branches of a cottonwood tree (in lower one third of tree canopy). It appeared to be hunting for insects among the foliage. It did pause for periods of about 5 to 10 seconds on the small branches at the outer edge of the canopy, allowing me a clear view.

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern. Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field:

Bird was similar in size and shape to a yellow-rumped warbler (warbler with which I am most familiar) It seemed somewhat plumper than a yellow-rumped warbler, however. The bird was extremely bright orange-yellow on the head. This graded to a bright yellow on the breast. The dark eye and dark bill contrasted sharply with the unmarked orange-yellow head and the clear breast. Bill was dark grey or black, fairly long and acutely pointed. The back was greenish in color and wings were unbarred and of a bluish-grey color. The tail was also dark, like the wings. Most notable features of this bird on first sight were the lack of head, breast or wing markings and the brilliant orange-yellow of the entire head and breast.

Behavior, size and shape of the bird suggested that it was some kind of warbler even before identification was made.

Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

Cannot remember hearing a song or call.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

First warbler seen was in a cottonwood grove beside the Poudre River. Second warbler was also in a cottonwood grove situated between the Poudre River and some small ponds. Both birds were flitting around in the lower one half of the tree canopy.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

Other warblers I have seen include Yellow-rumped, Black-and-white, Wilson's, Yellowthroat, and MacGillivray's. The rusty breast streaks and wing bars of a Yellow warbler readily distinguish it from the Prothonotary. The male Wilson's warbler has a conspicuous black cap while the Yellowthroat male has a black mask.

The only other warbler which resembled this bird was the blue-winged warbler. I have never seen a blue-winged warbler, but the bird I saw definitely did not have the white wing bars or black eye line that are shown on the blue-winged warbler. No other warbler in my field guide displayed the brilliant shade of orange-yellow that the Prothonotary did.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

I had never before seen a Prothonotary warbler before this sighting. Other warblers that I have seen are listed above.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

The only book consulted was Birds of North America by Robbins, Bruun and Zim. The illustration in this book fit the bird I saw almost perfectly.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory X

PRINT NAME: Wendy L. Haas SIGNATURE: Wendy L. Haas DATE: 5/4/77
Street Address: P.O. Box 373 Town and State: Encampment, Wyo. ZIP: 82225

Return to: JACK REDDALL - 4450 South Alton Street, Englewood, Colorado 80110