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COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORMNEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Prothonotary Warbler | Protonotaria citrea  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 5 Sept 1978Number of birds seen: one Sex: probably ♀ Plumage: \_\_\_\_\_Locality: Prewitt Reservoir Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_Nearest town: Merino County: WashingtonTime(s) observed: approx. 9:00 to 9:15 A.M., on and offDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) around 4-5 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Bruce Webb EPO Biology Univ. of Colorado, Boulder CO 80309  
(Bruce discovered the bird)

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

Various -- occasionally seen in good, bright sunlight at various angles.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 7 X 35 binocularsDistance, and how measured: As close as 8-9 ft. and further (estimate)

If photographed, type of equipment and film: \_\_\_\_\_

Who else photographed the bird? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

Flitting around in scrubby cottonwoods when first seen; calling, occasionally gleaning foliage. When found again a few minutes later in low, scrubby willows, it had a green caterpillar in its bill. Then seen flying into a cottonwood, about 10 ft. overhead, where it rested briefly.

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

"Warbler" sized (larger than nearby Wilson's and about same size as a nearby Orange-crowned), with striking, bright yellow forehead, face, throat, breast and sides. Crown yellow-green, blending into olive-green back. Belly and flanks fading from light lemon yellow to white caudally: undertail coverts white. Wings blue-gray, whitish edgings to secondaries giving a "striped" effect (like in a Black-capped Chickadee's wing). Tail dark grayish above, tipped the same below, but basally white below blending with undertail coverts.

Bill, legs and eyes appeared Black or dark brown--they were very dark.



Description, (continued)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Call frequently given while flitting about -- a high, thin "sweet" note, very distinctive.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Riparian woodland -- specifically cottonwoods and willows.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

The combination of bright yellow head and foreparts, white belly and undertail coverts, greenish back and plain grayish wings constitute a very distinctive pattern. The only other wood warbler with a vaguely similar pattern, the Blue-winged, is smaller, smaller-billed, and has a dark eye-line and white wing bars.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

Have only seen one other Prothonotary Warbler -- even further west! -- at Death Valley, California on 12 Sept 1971. That bird was a very orange individual, probably a ♂; but I remembered the distinctive call note, which I recorded in my notes at the time. I've seen all the other predominately yellow N. A. wood warblers except, alas, Bachman's. List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: Checked Robbins et al., and Pough's landbird guide, in reference to whether the bird was a ♂ or ♀.

This report was written from notes made during\_\_\_\_, after\_\_\_\_ observation; from memory X.

Date and time report was written: Around 5:00 P.M. 6 Sept 1978

Reporting observer: Tim Manolis

Signature: Tim Manolis

Address: 1146 10th St. Boulder CO 80302

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below.

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS  
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
CITY PARK  
DENVER, COLORADO 80205



## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Prothonotary Warbler | Protonotaria citrea  
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): 5 September 1978Number of birds seen: one Sex: prob female Plumage: no evidence of molt. or grayish color.Locality: Prewitt Reservoir Elevation: \_\_\_\_\_Nearest town: Merino County: WashingtonTime(s) observed: ~ 9:00 & 9:15 AMDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.) ~ 5 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

TIM Manolis, Dept. E.P.O. Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder CO 80309Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):  
\_\_\_\_\_Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):  
\_\_\_\_\_Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8.5 X 44 Swift BinocularsDistance, and how measured: as close as 5 ft. estimateIf photographed, type of equipment and film: —Who else photographed the bird? —

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

foraging in loose association with a Wilson's Warbler and an Orange-crowned Warbler  
it was first observed foraging rather high (~ 20 ft. up) in a deciduous tree, later we observed  
it within a low willow approximately 1-2 ft. above the ground.

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

- A chunky bodied warbler when compared to the Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers.
- We noted its bright yellow head and breast and whitish undertail coverts. When it came a little lower in the tree we were able to note details of its upperparts as follows:  
 back - a grayish-green color blending into the gray wings and tail  
 wings and tail: wings without wingbars, a dark gray color, tail also dark gray, we did not see the tail spots.
- from below the underparts were bright yellow from the entire head to approximately the position of the legs, posteriorly the underparts were whitish. This contrasted with tail which was dark gray below.
- legs, eye and bill blackish

(OVER)

Description, (continued)

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

call notes similar to an orange-crowned warbler, however slightly longer in duration.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

Willow and Cottonwood trees which lined a 10' wide irrigation channel (which was full of water)

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Bright yellow anterior, whitish below, gray wings and tail

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

One bird seen well along Boulder Creek, Below Col. Campus, Boulder, Co. Colorado

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) at time of observation:

b) after observation: We consulted Robbins and Peterson to see how they pictured the color of males vs. females

This report was written from notes made during\_\_\_\_, after\_\_\_\_ observation; from memory X.

Date and time report was written: \_\_\_\_\_

Reporting observer: Bruce Webb

Signature: Bruce Webb

Address: Dept. E.P.O. Biology

University of Colorado

Boulder, CO. 80309  
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