

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
FOR
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Prothonotary Warbler ; Protonotaria citrea
(Vernacular name) (Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students -- those studying occurrences 50 years from now -- must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Dates (s): 16 May 1979 Time Bird Seen: 7:30 am to 7:50 am

Locality: Hanna Ranch (Colo. Div. of Wildlife Property)
Fountain, CO. - El Paso Co.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Bushnell Binocs Bx40

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: —

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male Plumage: Breeding

Light conditions: Excellent sunny clear day. very close look - exposed + low perches at times.

Distance from bird, and how measured: very close 3-4 m. I sat very still & it moved w/ yellow warblers around me.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Feeding very actively with flock of yellow warblers in dense low vegetation: willows currently, teases + poison hemlock at edge of beaver pond. moved back + forth from where I sat - often down under vegetation. emerging to perch on mid-level (twice at top level) branches. On flight about observed flying perched, wings open + folded.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Cottonwood-willow riparian corridor along Ftn. Creek n. from Arkansas River & Pueblo. This particular spot is a cat-tail marsh/beaver pond bordered by dense shrubby (species above) + a steep bank. I sat just above levels of shrubs on bank - excellent view good stretch of open water above dam - narrow below dam with willow/shrubs / thick cottonwoods across water. Fed on shrubs/cattails - insects?

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

no others

APPENDIX II Continued


Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough). Describe what you actually saw in the field.

In with flock of yellow warblers (or's easily compared). Definite warbler beak, size, shape, behavior.

- bright goldish head - brighter than body - jumps out! Esp. near eyes.

- yellow wash bright to near end rump.

- whitish - bluish-gray wings - no wing bars

- when folded by tail  small (not bright) white patch

- steel blue on wings - shoulder saddle dull greenish blue (can't find word for this color - yellow-blue?)

- white on tail slightly exposed (little). Stands out from yellow w. without bluecs.
Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery--
i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

No call or song.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

st thought - Blue-winged Warbler... no wing bars. Head coloring deeply goldish-orange yellow (hard to describe)
yellow Warbler - was in with these - direct comparison. Steel blue of wings + back -
outstanding head color, no streaks, no wing bars at all like yellow suggests

? Wilson's Warbler; steel blue of wings + back + tail had slight white - head color total on head down to back - goldish-yellow-orange - Bright!

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Have had a Blue-winged Warbler in the hand & quite familiar w/ it.

Quite familiar w/ yellow + Wilson's Warblers

No previous experience w/ this bird though I memorized field marks - have wanted to see it a long time - this was a big ^{coined directly} surprise!

This report was written from notes made during ✓ after ✓ observation;
from memory .

Name (print) : Margaret L. Abbott

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Signature: Margaret L. Abbott

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee
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