

## APPENDIX II

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

52-89-46

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): August 27, 1989 Time Bird Seen: 6:15 PM to 6:17 PMLocality: Colorado City, Pueblo County, Colorado

This bird not recorded in lat/long # 26 (Trinidad) in most  
Nearest town, county and state: recent lat/long study.

Optical equipment: 10X40 Zeiss Binocular

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♂ Plumage: BreedingLight conditions: GoodDistance from bird, and how measured: 20 yards

Describe the bird's overall behavior: This bird stayed low to the ground foraging in dense willows & cattails near a pond's edge.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Elevation 6000 feet. 1 acre pond with heavy willow and cattail growth near edge. Dense oak, boxelder, & willow surrounds pond.

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

None

APPENDIX 1I 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.

Black beady eye stood out on fairly large solid golden yellow head, nape, & throat. There were no eyelines, eyerings, interrupting this solid golden yellow pattern which extended into underparts of chest & belly. Under tail coverts were white. Bill was solid black. Back was greenish blue, turning to slate blue in wings & tail. There were no wing bars. Tail had noticeable light tail spots which flashed when bird flew.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

No sound made.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Blue-winged Warbler has dark eye line & wing bars. Female & Young yellow warblers lack brilliant golden yellow head pattern; bluish color in wings & tail are not present in yellow warblers which also lack prominent contrasting tail spots. Hooded & Wilson's Warblers show darker olive green wings rather than bluish wings. They also have greenish color in crown's. Prior experience with this and similar species: of fall birds which contrast with yellow face.

I have seen these birds many times in my native state of Missouri. I have seen one other Prothonary & Blue-winged in Colorado, a few Hooded's in Colorado, & many Wilson's & Yellow's in Colorado.

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

Name (print) : David Silverman

Mailing address: P.O. Box 362 Rye, Colorado

Signature: David Silverman

Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator--Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205

XC: Hugh Kingery