

52-90-61

APPENDIX II

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): 23 Sept 1990 Time Bird Seen: ~7:30 am to 8:15 am

Locality: Canyon City River Walk
Canyon City, Colo.
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Nikon 9x30 binos.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: -

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ♀ (?) Plumage: breeding

Light conditions: excellent; bright sun at back

Distance from bird, and how measured: 40-250 ft., estimated

Describe the bird's overall behavior:
Foraged silently in small shrubs (sometimes near ground), but usually at med. height in larger cottonwoods. Actively fed, but not "flitty". With large, loose group of western warblers and flickers.
Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:
Riparian woodland.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):
Found by Dave Silverman, et al.

APPENDIX 11 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. About 6" long warbler, with rather large, black pointed bill and black, staring eye. Overall the bird is quite large for a warbler; stocky and short-tailed. Bright golden yellow foreparts, nearly orange on the head & face. Top of head & nape with gray wash. Back grayish green. Wings plain dark blue-gray without wingbars. Tail dark gray. Breast golden, then turning yellow on lower belly, then abruptly turns into white lower belly & white undertail coverts.

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

Not heard.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Blue-winged Warbler has white wing bars & black line through eye.
Tennessee Warbler has patterned face, all greenish above.
Orange-cr. " is plainer, not golden, has yellow undertail coverts.
Yellow Warbler, not steel blue above, has yellow undertail coverts.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen Prothonotary Warblers several times in other parts of U.S.

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

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Signature: Mark Janos

Return Form To:

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