

SPECIES: PROTHONOTARY WARBLER
(Vernacular Name)

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Protonotaria citrea ~~52~~ 52-93-16
(Scientific Name)

DATE(S): MAY 16, 1993

TIME OF OBSERVATION: 12:10

TO 12:12 MDT

EXACT LOCATION: Bonny Reservoir SRA (swamp just east of Wagon Wheel Campground)

NEAREST TOWN: Hale, Colorado; Idalia, Colorado COUNTY: Yuma

OTHER OBSERVERS WHO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFIED THIS BIRD:

Several others who were participating in a DFO field trip.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT: 9.5x44 Celestron Binoculars

WEATHER CONDITIONS: Clear. Wind, SW 10 MPH. 75°F.

BIRD/SUN ORIENTATION: Bright sunlight directly upon bird coming from behind observers.

DISTANCE FROM BIRD AND HOW MEASURED: 50 feet; estimated.

NUMBER OF BIRDS SEEN: 1 ♂ SEX: _____ PLUMAGE: Alternate

BEHAVIOR AND DEMEANOR: Bird first observed working its way among exposed roots and tree trunks at the edge of the water. It was observed for approximately two minutes as it continued to probe here and there apparently in search of food. Suddenly flew low across a short expanse of water to a stand of cattails and disappeared from sight. It was not relocated.

HEAD & NECK (forehead, crown, auricular & malar regions, median line, etc.):
Bright yellowish-orange.

EYES & LORES (supercilium, eye-ring, eye-stripe, color, etc.):
Conspicuous dark eye.

LOWER & UPPER MANDIBLES (color & shape): long, pointed, prominent dark bill.

LEGS & FEET: Not particularly noted.

UPPERPARTS (nape, back, rump, uppertail coverts, etc.): Back olive. Bright yellowish-orange nape. Blue-gray rump and uppertail coverts.

UNDERPARTS (chin, throat, belly, sides, flanks, crissum, etc.): Chin, throat, breast and sides bright yellowish-orange. Undertail coverts white.

RETICES (inner, middle & outer tail feathers; color, pattern, shape, etc.):
Uppertail dark gray with white spots (areas) near end of outer retrices. Undertail
not noted.

INGS (color, length, shape, bars, coverts, etc.): Upperwing blue-gray
without any wingbars. Under side of wings not noted.

LOCALIZATION (call/song, method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight):
None heard.

HABITAT: Swampy backwater area from Bonny Reservoir lined with willows and
bottomwoods; large cattail stand about 30' across open area of backwater.

ELIMINATION OF SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora pinus*): lacks overall orange cast of *Protonotaria*
citrea. Has black line running from base of bill back through and slightly behind
eye. Wings are bluish-gray with two prominent white wing bars.

YELLOW-WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*): Bright yellow below with rich red breast stripes
in male; both sexes show yellow-eye-ring; wings are yellowish with greenish-yellow
back. Uppertail greenish with yellow webbing in retrices.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND SIMILARLY APPEARING SPECIES:

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Have seen numerous times in North Carolina, South Carolina during
many visits and vacations beginning in 1953. Also seen in Georgia, Florida, Alabama
and Texas on many visits to these states. Seen regularly in migration in the
Chicago, Illinois area during the 1940's and occasionally during migration on Long
Island, New York during the 1950's. Seen only once before in Colorado: Wheat Ridge Green
Belt, Jefferson County, August 20, 1985.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: Regular migrant in Chicago area in 1940's. Seen regularly each
summer in the pine barrens of eastern Long Island, New York where it used to breed.
Seen but 3 times in Colorado; the first at Two Buttes Res., Baca Co. on May 5, 1976.

BOOKS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND ADVICE CONSULTED THAT INFLUENCED THIS REPORT:

None required.

THIS REPORT WRITTEN FROM NOTES MADE DURING ☒ AFTER ☐ OBSERVATION; ☒ FROM MEMORY

NAME: JACK REDDALL SIGNATURE: Jack Reddall DATE: May 31, 1993

* YELLOW WARBLER: Have seen commonly and regularly throughout most of North
America since the late 1930's.