

APPENDIX II

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

Species: Prothonotary Warbler ; Prothonotaria 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): 6-1-93 to 6-8-93 Time Bird Seen: 8:30 to 8:55 - ^{1st sighting} ^{seen most}
afternoon ^{day after}
Locality: The 300 BLOCK OF EAST LAS VEGAS ST.

COLORADO SPRINGS, (EL PASO CO) COLORADO

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: Swift 8.5 x 44 Binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

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

Light conditions: from bright sunlight to dark shade

Distance from bird, and how measured: As close as 20 ft. Estimate from window to bush in yard.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Feeds in dense foliage of lg. trees close to trunk. Feeds much slower than most warblers. Sits in dense cover shrubs for long periods (up to 10 min) singing + preening. Impossible to find it not singing. Came to garden pond. Residential Area

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: Riparian habitat - large cottonwoods and willows with creeks to the south and east. Large shrubs: chokecherry + elderberry seem to be preferred. Old neighborhood, heavily treed. Campground on South.

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

Toni Brevillier 2616 Ashgrove St. Colo. Spgs, CO 80906

Brandon Percival 835 Harmony Dr. Pueblo West Pueblo, CO 81007

Chuck Romero 313 E. Las Vegas St. Colo. Spgs, CO 80903

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.

Black eye and bill striking against plain gold face + head. Throat + upper breast golden-yellow - belly yellow, fading to white on lower belly and undertail coverts. When preening, black scallops show on lower edge of white undertail. Upper back pale blue-gray, becoming darker blue, gray toward lower back + tail. Wings dark blue + gray, with no wingbars. Tail sometimes shows white markings. Legs black. Bird plumper, with shorter tail than most warblers. Size + shape much like Common Yellowthroat.

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

Loud, rapid ringing "zweet, zweet, zweet, zweet, zweet" repeated from 4 to 7 times - usually 6. Sings while feeding in trees and from perch well hidden in trees or dense shrubbery. Call note "tic"

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Blue-winged warbler has different coloring and song. This bird showed no markings on face, had no wing bars and was larger in size.

YELLOW WARBLER paler, greener on back. Different song, tho similar, but more varied in yellow warbler. All yellow underneath with red streaks on male. No markings on throat or breast of bird observed.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I have not seen this warbler before. I have seen Blue-winged warblers, and Yellow Warblers were present with this bird, as they are common here in Spring + early Summer.

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

AT time of 1st sighting I noted everything I could about this bird, then came into the house to make notes, use field guide

Returned outside for more looks at bird - more field marks.

Name (print) : JO ROMERO

Mailing address: 313 E. LAS VEGAS St. COLO. SPRGS, CO 80903

Signature: Jo Romero

Return Form To:

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

Colorado Field Ornithologists - Sight Record Form

- -New State Record - X - Rare bird in CO

Prothonotary Warbler
(Species)

Protonotaria citrea
(Scientific name)

Date(s):

June 3, 1993 9:00-9:40 AM 40 minutes.

Locality:

313 East Las Vegas Street, Colorado Springs, El Paso County
Colorado in a birders backyard.

Nearest town, county and state)

Optical equipment:

10X40 Bausch&Lomb Custom Binocluars.

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Not Photographed.

Number of birds seen:1 Sex:male

Plumage: adult

Light Conditions:

excellent

Distance from bird and how measured:

7-60 feet

Describe the bird's overall behavior:

The bird would fly in when Toni played the tape, the bird
was seen moving very little when it was perched. The bird
sang every minute at least 8 times per minute.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

In a suburban backyard in cottonwood trees.

Other observers who independently identified the bird
(Please list names and address):

Jo & Chuck Romero June 1-4, 1993 In there yard
Toni Brevillier June 3, 1993 with me 2616 Ashgrove
Street, Colorado Springs, 80906

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. The field
marks used to identify the bird. Include Size, overall

shape, plumage, and color pattern; details on shape of bill, wings, and tail.:

I identified the bird by it's golden orange head, black eyes, blue gray wings, white undertail coverts, overall warbler shape and by it's loud song: a sweet sweet sweet, similar to Yellow-throated Warbler, which I heard and saw many times in Pueblo City Park during the May of 1992. The bird was about 5 1/2 inches in length (a largeish warbler). The bird was overall warbler shaped. The bill was black. The head was golden orange. The throat, breast, belly were all golden yellow. The eyes were bold and black. The undertail coverts were white. The back was greenish. The wings and tail were blueish gray. No wing bars. The tail had white spots. The legs and feet were black. The bbill was fairly long for most warblers, and it was pointed at the end. The wings were typical warbler shaped. The tail was large and seemed rounder at the end. The bird was in adult male plumage. Also it's head seemed round.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds if heard:

The bird sang a sweet, sweet, sweet song. Not like Yellow Warbler sweet sweet sweet I'm so sweet. Like Yellow-throated Warbler.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Yellow Warbler: By it's not gray wings.

Blue-winged Warbler: By black line through the eye and two white wing bars.

Prior experience with this and similar species:

I've seen two Prothonotary Warblers in CO

I've seen two Blue-winged Warblers in CO

I've seen many Yellow Warblers in CO & AZ

Field Guides used to determine sighting:

National Geographic Society's Birds of North America

This report was written from notes made during X after X;
from memory_____.

Name: Brandon K.Percival

Mailing address: 835 Harmony Dr.

Pueblo West, Colorado 81007-2604

(719)-547-3722

Signature: Brandon K. Percival

Return form to: Bill Prather

C.F.O. Official Records Committee

13810 Weld County Road 1

Longmont, Colorado 80504
