

COLORADO RARE BIRD REPORT

52-94-74

ACCEPTED

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Protonotaria citrea

Location: Jo Romero's back yard; Colorado Springs; El Paso County, Colorado

Date: September 18, 1994

Jo Romero discovered this bird in her yard.

Setting:

Jo Romero found this bird and it has apparently returned for the third time to her yard. Jo's back yard is planted in trees and shrubs and there are large cottonwoods and willows overhanging the property. I saw the bird with Bob Dickson, Brandon Percival and Jo Romero. We found it after about a half hour's search in the early afternoon on a sunny, warm, still day. We observed the bird for about ten minutes at distances of about 25-75 feet. When we first discovered it, it was foraging in a rose bush along a fence at about eye level. It even perched along the top of a board fence at 6 feet height and about 25 feet distance. We got superb views with our binoculars.

Description:

The bird was unmistakable—an adult male. It was a small, slender bird (about 5"), with a short tail and a slender, sharp bill. The head and undersides were a brilliant, pure golden yellow. The undertail coverts were white. The back was olive. The wings and tail were bluish-grey and I could sometimes see white spots in the tail. The eye was black and "staring" in the middle of the deep yellow face. The bill was sharp and black and quite long and large for a warbler.

Similar Species:

The only other mainly yellow-headed warblers are: Blue-winged (wingbars; black eye-line); Orange-crowned and Tennessee (lack blue-grey wings and tails); Yellow (streaked below; lacks blue-grey wings and tail; has yellow undertail coverts); and Wilson's (smaller; lacks white undertail coverts; has tiny bill).

Experience with Species:

I have seen all the warblers mentioned above. I've seen two previous Prothonotary Warblers in Colorado (both males) and quite a few in other parts of the country.

This report is prepared from memory.



Mark Janos
10 Sedum Ct.
Pueblo, CO 81001

52-94-74

ACCEPTED

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

1X1

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Prothonotary Warbler (Vernacular Name) Protonotaria citrea (Scientific Name)Date(s): May 21, 1994 and September 18, 1994Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male Plumage: adultLocality: 313 Las Vegas St. Colo. Sprs. in yard. Elevation: 6012Nearest town: Colorado Springs County: El PasoTime(s) observed: 12:00 noon - 12:30 PM on 5/21/94. 10:00 - 10:15 AM on Sep 18/94Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 15 minutes

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Jo Romero Colorado Springs CO on May 21, 1994Toni Brevittier Colorado Springs, COMark James, Bob Dickson, Chuck Romero on Sept 18/1994

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

Duane Nelson Golden COJoe Roller Ap Idon. COChris Wood Morrison CO

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

ExcellentOptical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 10X40 Baush & Lomb BinocularsDistance, and how measured: 15-20 feetIf photographed, type of equipment and film: not photographed.Who else photographed the bird? no one.

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

The bird foraged in the lower branches of the cottonwood trees around the alley on Las Vegas St. in Jo Romero's yard in Colo. Sprs,Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field: I identified the bird by its golden yellow head, blue gray wings and tail. And by its warbler shaped bill. The size of the bird was about 5 1/2 inches. The overall shape was typical warbler shaped. The plumage of the bird was an adult male. The color pattern is as follows: The bill was black. The head was golden orange colored. The eyes were bold black. The back was greenish. The wings were grayish blue with ~~no~~ no noticeable color of white or any other color on the wing bars. The wing bars were grayish blue. The tail was

Description (continued): grayish blue with a little white in the tail. The chin, throat, breast and belly were all bright yellow. The flanks were also yellow. The under tail coverts were white. The legs and feet were black. The shape of the bill was thin and long. The shape of the wings were typical warbler shaped. The tail was short and large and rounded at the end.

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration): The bird sang loudly in the spring. A sweet, sweet, sweet song.

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

The bird was observed in cottonwood trees on both sightings.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Blue-winged Warbler: This species has a black line through the eyes.
Yellow Warbler: This species is not as bright yellow as Prothonotary Warblers and this species do not have white under tail coverts.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

I have seen one adult male and a fall bird in Colorado 1993, and 1990.
Blue-winged: I have seen one three times in CO.
Yellow: I have seen many in CO, AZ and KS.

List books, illustrations, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

- a) at time of observation: National Geographic Society Bird's of North America
b) after observation:

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation X from memory

Date and time report was written: May 26, 1994 6:00 PM and Sept. 19, 1994 7:00 PM

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Prather Signature: Brandon K. Prather

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Return to:
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