

## COLORADO RARE BIRD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD ☐ RARE RECORD ☐ UNUSUAL RECORD ☒ X

Species: Prothonotary Warbler      Protonotaria citrea  
(Vernacular Name)      (Scientific Name)

Dates: May 7, 1996.      Number of birds seen: one.

Sex: male.      Plumage: adult.

Locality: Along the Arkansas River west of Valco Ponds in Pueblo.

Nearest town: Pueblo.      County: Pueblo.

Time observed: 10:30-11:15AM.      Duration of observation: 10 minutes off and on.

Other observers with you:  
none.

Other observers who saw the bird independently:  
Pearle Sandstrom-Smith and Clif Smith found the bird on May 6, 1996.  
Mark Yaeger and Leon Bright saw the bird later in the day on May 7, 1996.

Light conditions:  
excellent.

Optical equipment:  
10X40 Baucsh & Lomb Binoculars.

Distance from bird:  
10-60 feet.

Describe the bird's behavior:  
The bird was along the south side of the Arkansas River in a tree that had a dead branch that went out to the river. The bird stayed in this tree the entire time I saw it.

Describe the bird:  
The bird was about five and one half inches in length. The overall shape was warbler shaped. The plumage was an adult male in breeding plumage. The color pattern is as

follows: the bill was black. The head was golden yellow. The nape was also golden yellow. The back was greenish. The wings were bluish gray, with no obvious wing bars. The tail was bluish gray with white tail spots. The eyes were black and very noticeable behind the golden face and ear patches. The chin was golden yellow. The throat was golden yellow. The breast was bright yellow, not as gold. The belly was bright yellow. The flanks were bright yellow. The color under the tail was white. The legs and feet were black. The shape of the bill was thin and somewhat long for most warblers. The tail shape was somewhat rounded and short. I identified this bird by its golden yellow head (lacking any markings on face), warbler shape (small colorful song bird with thin bill used for catching insects and short tail on this species), green back, also by the bluish gray wings (lacking wing bars) and tail with white tail spots, and finally by its distinctive song.

Describe the bird's song and call if heard:

The bird sang four times giving a loud sweet sweet sweet sweet.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

The bird was observed along the Arkansas River in a tree that was just west of the bank of the river. This area has become an excellent place for eastern vagrants the last few years.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species:

Blue-winged Warbler: The species can be eliminated quickly by the wing bars and black line going through by eyes.

Yellow Warbler: A male of this species shows chestnut colored streaks on the front, and all of this species has yellow under the tail.

All other warblers have markings on the face and do not have a golden yellow head.

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

Prothonotary Warbler: I have seen three previous ones in Colorado, with one at Jo Romero's yard in Colorado Springs on three different days and two different years, also one Canon City and Fountain Creek Regional Park.

Blue-winged Warbler: I have seen one at Castlewood Canyon State Park, three different times and I saw a male at Lamar, Colorado on May 12, 1995.

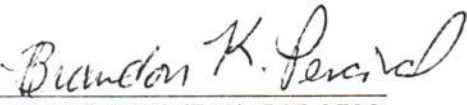
Yellow Warbler: I have seen many of these species in Colorado and other states.

List books if they helped in your identification:

none needed.

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

Reporting observer: Brandon K. Percival

Signature: 

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