

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - Rarity Report Form

Common Name: Prothonotary Warbler **Scientific Name:** *Protonotaria citrea*
Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex:** female **Age:** first fall
Locality: Colorado: Lake Henry, Crowley County
Date(s) Seen: August 22, 1997 **Time:** 5:30pm - 6:00pm
Reporting Observer: Christopher L. Wood
Other Observers: Joey Kellner and Steve Stachowiak
Light Conditions: Partly cloudy skies, mostly closed canopy.
Optical Equipment: B & L "Elite" 10*42 (new model)
Distance to Bird: 35 - 50 feet **Duration of Observation:** In view for about 2 minutes.
Habitat: Cottonwoods and willows on the north side of Lake Henry.
Behavior: The bird was loosely associating with a couple of Yellow Warblers, though for the most part it remained alone. It was most often seen at, or slightly above, eye level in the willows over water.

Description:

Overall Size and Shape: A large chunky, shorter tailed warbler with a heavy, long, slightly decurved bill. The large black eyes were always very prominent.
Head: Olive, slightly stronger olive on crown and nape, contrasting very little with mantle and upperparts. Throat yellow.
Upperparts: Olive with a slightly brownish hue.
Underparts: Bright yellow throat, breast, and sides, becoming whiter toward belly and flanks. Undertail coverts white.
Wings: Gray-blue overall with somewhat of a brownish wash. Flight feathers slightly darker.
Tail: Gray-blue, sometimes showing flashes of white.
Bare Parts: Long, heavy, fleshy-colored bill, darker on upperside of upper mandible.
Vocalizations: None heard.

Similar Species: Very few species are similar to this species. Perhaps Blue-winged Warbler, but this species has wing bars and a dark eye line. Yellow Warbler has smaller bill; shows yellow, not white, in tail; and has yellow undertail coverts.

Photographs/Tape Recordings: None.

References:

Curson, J., D. Quinn, and D. Beadle. 1994. *Warblers of the Americas*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
Dunn, J., and K. Garrett. 1997. *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Description from: ☐ Contemporaneous notes; ☐ Later notes; ☐ Memory.

Experience with Species: While working on the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas, I saw hundreds of Prothonotary Warblers in Grant County (1996).

Are you Positive of the Identification?: Yes

Signature: Christopher L. Wood
Date: Dec 30, 1997