

ACCEPTED (7/10)

## COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

NEW STATE RECORD

UNUSUAL RECORD

|X|

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

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

(Scientific Name)

Date(s): 12-13 September 1998Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: ? Plumage: ?Locality: Poudre River Bike Trail ~ 1/2 m n of Prospect Rd. Elevation: ~ 5,000' ASLNearest town: Fort Collins County: LarimerTime(s) observed: 12 Sept (12:30 - 1 P) 13 Sept (7:30 - 8 A 9:15 - 9:25 A 10:40 - 10:45 A)Duration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 12 Sept (30 minutes) 13 Sept (45 minutes)

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

Joe Mammoser 13 Sept (7:30 - 9:25 A)Bill Lisowsky - 13 Sept (10:40 - 10:45 A)

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

None, that I know of.

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

In full sun, in shade, above vs, below vs (below cut bank), etc.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8 x Swift binocularsDistance, and how measured: 10 feet (closest)If photographed, type of equipment and film: Tokina 100-300 Zoom or Minolta SRT-IIWho else photographed the bird? Bill Lisowsky

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

Usually feeding at mid-crown of narrowleaf cottonwoods, willows or boxelder. Methodically searching foliage for aphids (mostly) and caterpillars (fall webworm). Also seen among roots of large willows growing at bend in river, and in willow sapling overhanging cutbank. Occasionally as high as 25-30', low as 5'.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:Fairly plump, languish warbler. Head, breast and nape solid yellow (no tinge of orange, just a bright, medium yellow). Eye large & dark. Bill sharply pointed and longer than most warblers. Bill color generally pale gray. Back olive. Wings medium slate to blue-gray. Belly and under tail bright white. Slight yellowish wash across vent area. Tail short. White spots in tail



Description (continued):

when bird flew. Did not notice any conspicuous tail flicking or wing flashing. Legs gray-black. Flanks back by tail washed with conspicuous light gray. Associated with Wilson's warblers, Orange-crowned warblers, Black-capped chickadees. } Suspect this bird was a young male but none of the books show the exact plumage of this bird. Best photo is pg. 434 in Field Guide to warblers by Dunn & Garrett (except for the dark bill and lack of gray flanks). } No wing bars. No eyering.

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

Gave a rich "seet" call just prior to and during short flights. On a few occasions gave this note 2-3 times in a row with very brief pause in between syllables. Call was a rich, sweet note, somewhat reminiscent of yellow warblers (without the metallic component).

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

Riparian woodland within 50 yards of river. The bird was seen in narrowleaf cottonwoods, boxelder, crack & coyote willows. Most of these trees had fall webworm tents & abundant aphids.

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

Bigger than most warblers, white undertail eliminated orange-crowned (with which it fed on occasion). Gray wings, large bill eliminated Wilson's (with which it fed) and most other warblers with no wing bars. Lack of eyering eliminated Canada. White undertail eliminated *Oporornis*.

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

I have now seen 3 prothonotaries in CO. This is my first in fall. Saw lots this past spring in Texas. Saw many during my years in Ohio & North Carolina.

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

a) at time of observation: none

b) after observation: Dunn/Garrett, Corson/Quinn & Beable  
Nat'l. Geo.

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

Date and time report was written: 1 PM 13 Sept '98

Reporting observer: David Leatherman Signature: David Leatherman

Address: 612 Stover St #7 Ft Collins CO 80524 970/416-0193

Return to:

Bill Prather

C.F.O. Official Records Committee

13810 WCR 1

Longmont, Colorado 80504