

ACCEPT 7-0

CFO-RC FILE X: _____
 RESULTS: _____

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific name): Prothonotary Warbler (Protonotaria Citrea)

Date(s) of Observation: May 15, 1999 (Saturday)

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

Exact location: Fountain Creek Regional Park, on the trail going south from the Nature Center, at the bottom of the hill near the pond. Later observed along the nearby creek.

County: El Paso **Nearest town:** Fountain **Elevation:** 5700'

Length of observation: 1-2 minutes **Time(s) of observation:** 9:30 am

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Ginger Kathrens

Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s):

Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position): Excellent, full sun, bird was in the open

Optical equipment used: Bushnell 8x42 binoculars, Nikon 10x40 binoculars

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 20 feet

Was bird(s) photographed? No **If so, have you submitted photos?**

Who took the photographs?

Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred:

The bird was near a pond, on low vegetation, very near the ground when first observed. Later the same bird was seen near the creek in the willows (less than 50 feet away).

Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the species or in supporting the identification):

The bird was hopping around in willows and on the ground. It exhibited insect seeking behavior, pecking at the vegetation and ground.

Describe the bird in detail. This is the most important part of this report. Include the overall size and shape and how you placed the bird in the general group that you did. Give complete details of plumage, including head, throat, undersides, nape, back, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird(s). Describe other important details, such as color and shape of bill, legs, eye, (etc.) that were important in making the identification. (Fill out this portion even if photographs are submitted; you may attach additional sheets, drawings, field sketches or copy field notes):

The bird was first noticed by its brilliant day-glow yellow, almost orange color. It was distinctly brighter than nearby yellow warblers. The size was similar to yellow warbler, approximately 5", and had a similar shape, but the bill was slightly longer. The wings and tail were gray, and the back was olive-yellow. The entire head, throat and breast were bright yellow in color, with no streaking. There were no wing bars or eye rings. The eyes and bill were dark.

Describe birds call or song: Not observed.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them:

The yellow warbler is similar in shape and size, but doesn't have the dark wings and tail seen on this bird. The color was also distinctly brighter than a yellow warbler, with an orange tint, and there was no chestnut

streaking on the breast.

The blue-winged warbler has a dark stripe through the eye, which was not observed on this bird.

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

This was the first sighting of Prothonotary Warbler for both observers. Both observers have watched Yellow, Wilson's, Yellow-rumped and other warblers for the past 10 years.

List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): During the observation, we used the National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America. Later verified the identification with All the Birds of North America.

This report was made from notes made during
memory

or after ☒ **observation, or later from**

Date of written report: May 19, 1999

Reporting observer: Lisa J. Sinke

Address: 1730 Ivy Pl
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Signature:

Lisa J. Sinke