

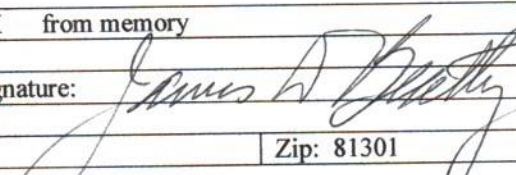
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**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**  
(Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.)

**Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**

CFO-RC FILE X:

**RESULTS:**

Species:(Common Name) Prothonotary Warbler		(Scientific Name) Protonotaria citrea	
Date(s) of occurrence: October 3, 2001			
Number of birds seen: 1		Sex: female	adult
Exact location: Pastorious Lake SWA southeast of Durango in LaPlata County, Colorado.			
County: La Plata		Durango	Elevation: 6400 ft
Length of observation: 2 hours - on and off		Time(s) of observation: 9:15 am to 11:15am	
Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Susan Allerton came to site after I called her.			
Other Observers who independently saw the bird(s): Unknown at this time, but bird was reported locally by Kip Stransky			
Light Conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s); position: Sunny, sun behind me and on bird.			
Optical equipment used: B&L Elite 10x42			
Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): As close as thirty feet.			
Was bird(s) photographed? No		If so, have you submitted photos? N/A	
Who took the photographs? N/A			
Describe the general and specific habitat in which the bird(s) occurred: the bird was seen in Gambel Oak very close to the shoreline of Pastorius Lake.			
Describe the bird's behavior (flying, feeding, habits, behaviors used in identifying the Species or in supporting the identification): The bird was seen feeding very deliberately in Gambel Oak at lakeside. It moved relatively slowly for a warbler and inspected each branch carefully before moving to the next feeding area. When it flew it was for a short distance to a nearby group of Gambel Oak. Flight was direct.			
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): Bird was a relatively large warbler that was predominately bright yellow on the head and upper breast. Bill was long and large for a warbler; overall bill color was blackish. Wings, lower back and top of tail were gray. Bright yellow extended around eye and lower forehead to breast and upper belly. Ventral color transitioned quickly from bright yellow to white on lower belly and undertail coverts. Underside of tail exhibited large white tail spots that extended to near tip of tail which was black. Bird had no wing bars. While bird had bright yellow coloring, it did not have the golden quality of an adult male and crown and back were too olive-yellow. Instead the crown and back was a bright greenish yellow fading into the gray of the back and upper tail. Also, the face was distinctive. The bright yellow extended slightly above the bill and around the eyes and behind them except for an yellowish-olive ear patch., although this patch seemed to be slightly behind the ear as in many sparrow species. The eye was large and blackish.			
Describe bird's call or song: Not heard			
Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: Large size, large spike-like bill, bright yellow coloration, gray wings, back and upper tail, white belly, undertail coverts and undertail spots, and slow, deliberate feeding separated this bird from all similar species.			
What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? I am very familiar with this bird after 30 years of birding in southwestern Ohio. It nested in one of my favorite birding locations - Spring Valley SWA - as well as other locations in southwestern Ohio.			
List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): While I was 100% certain of this birds identity as soon I saw it, I did consult Sibley at the site to verify sex and age. Furthermore I consulted Dunn and Garrett after I returned home to confirm sex and age. I also consulted Andrews and Righter to determined rarity of this species on the western slope o f Colorado.			
This report is from notes made during		or after	observation or later XX from memory
Date of written report: October 3, 2001			
Reporting observer: James D. Beatty		Signature: 	
Reporting Observer's Address: 165 Twelve Point Buck Trail			
City: Durango		State: CO	Zip: 81301



2001-111

ACCEPTED

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**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form** (Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.) **Each table cell will automatically enlarge as you type!**

CFO-RC FILE X:

RESULTS:

Species:(Common Name) Prothonotary Warbler

(Scientific Name) *Protonotaria citrea*

Date(s) of occurrence: 10/3/01

Number of birds seen: one

Sex: Female

Plumage: Adult plumage

Exact location: Pastorius Reservoir SWA (~ 6 mi. SE of Durango on CR 302).

County: La Plata

Nearest town: Durango

Elevation: ~6800 feet

Length of observation: 25 minutes

Time(s) of observation: Intermittently between 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Jim Beatty called me after finding the bird. He & I viewed the bird together when I arrived.

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): No one to my knowledge. The bird couldn't be found by several birders the next day.

Light Conditions [quality; direction relative to bird(s); position]: Excellent lighting conditions.

Optical equipment used: Swarovski 7x42 binoculars

Distance from bird(s) (estimated unless otherwise noted): 12 meters

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 Prothonotary Warbler was foraging in predominantly Gambel's oak within a cluster of oak, juniper and pinyon at the SE edge of the reservoir. The reservoir is surrounded by mainly agricultural lands on a mesa.

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

The bird was actively foraging for insects, staying fairly high in the canopy of oak trees that were about 15 feet tall.

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):

(See reverse side)

Detailed description of the bird:

The bird was ~ 5 inches in length. Head was primarily bright yellow with a bold, black eye. The color of the back was greenish-yellow. That same greenish-yellow color extended up to the nape & crown. The forehead was yellow. There was a slight green shading on the auricular, but the area immediately surrounding the eye was yellow. The bird had gray wings without wing bars. The underparts were yellow, but the yellow ended slightly above the legs. The lower belly, the undertail coverts, and the feathered parts of the legs were white. The tail was short and appeared to be entirely white underneath.

Describe bird's call or song: The bird didn't vocalize.

Discuss similar species and how you eliminated them: I agreed with Jim Beatty's identification. The field marks of the Prothonotary Warbler were apparent & seen well. No other species needed consideration.

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

I've have some experience with Pronthonotary Warblers. My most recent previous sighting was last fall in Socorro, NM.

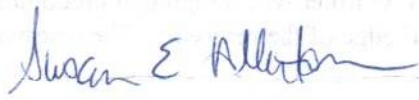
List books, guides, recordings or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation):

Warblers by Jon Dunn/Kimbell Garrett, The Sibley Guide to Birds and The Field Guide to the Birds of North America by National Geographic were consulted to determine the age & sex of the bird.

This report is from notes made during or after observation or later from memory.

I essentially jotted down all of my notes later in the day on 10/3/01.

Date of written report: 11/05/01

Reporting observer: Susan E. Allerton Signature: 

Reporting Observer's Address: 61 Newland Circle

City: Durango State: Colorado Zip: 81301

**Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee Tony Leukering P.O. Box 157 Arvada, CO 80001**