

UTAH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

2-1996

Common Name: PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Scientific Name: PROTONOTARIA CITREA

Date: 28/SEPT/96

Time: LATE AFTERNOON

Length of time observed: ABOUT 8 MINUTES
TOTAL

Number: 1

Age: ADULT

Sex: M ? (BASED ON PLUMAGE BRILLIANCE)

Location: ANTIMONY CREEK - NORTH OF BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK. JUST PAST
TURN OFF TO LAST RANCH HOUSE (ON RIGHT) THERE IS A CAMPGROUND SIGN.
1 MILE BEYOND THIS SIGN ALONG CREEK. (ROAD IS ROUGH)

Lat/long:

Elevation (if known):

Distance to bird: 6-8 FEET

Light conditions: DIRECT SUN TO SHADE,
DEPENDING ON WHERE PERCHED.

Optical equipment: NONE NEEDED - TOO CLOSE.

Weather: FEW CLOUDS - MOSTLY CLEAR & WARM DURING DAY. COLD AT NIGHT.

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including
size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

WHILE FISHING I NOTICED A BIRD MOVING AROUND LOW IN THE
BRUSH ABOUT 30 FEET DOWN STREAM, CHASING INSECTS SOMEWHAT
ACTIVELY. I NOTICED A GREAT DEAL OF YELLOW AND DISMISSED IT
AS "ANOTHER WILSON'S" WHICH WERE FAIRLY COMMON ALONG
THE STREAM IN THE WILLOWS. THE BIRD FLEW PAST ME
AND PERCHED ABOUT 8 FEET AWAY ON AN EXPOSED ROOT
2 FEET ABOVE THE WATER. IT WAS LARGER THAN A WILSON'S
AND ASTONISHINGLY BRIGHT. THE WHOLE HEAD, NAPE, FACE, BREAST
AND SIDES WERE INCREDIBLY YELLOW, ABOUT A SHADE LIGHTER
THAN A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC COVER BORDER. THE BACK WAS
FAIRLY WELL DEFINED FROM THE NAPE AND WINGS AS OLIVE
IN COLOR, AND THE WINGS AND TAIL WERE A METALLIC
GRAY (NOT IRIDESCENT). THERE WERE NO WING BARS. THE UNDERTAIL
COVERTS, VISIBLE WHEN THE BIRD TIPPED FORWARD FACING AWAY
FROM ME WERE WHITE. THE BILL WAS LARGE AND JET BLACK,
AS WAS THE EYE. - THE BIRD CONTINUED TO FEED ALONG THE
EXPOSED ROOTS AND OVERHANGING FOLIAGE FOR ABOUT EIGHT
OR NINE MINUTES, PAYING LITTLE OR NO ATTENTION TO ME.
IT THEN FLEW LOW OVER THE WATER, UPSTREAM INTO
SOME WILLOW WHERE I LOST IT.
I LOOKED IN THE AREA THE NEXT MORNING, BUT BIRD ACTIVITY
OVERALL WAS REDUCED AND THIS ONE NOT SEEN AGAIN.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: NONE

Behavior: ACTIVELY SEARCHING EXPOSED ROOT BARK AND FOLIAGE FOR INSECTS. VERY UNCONCERNED BY MY CLOSE PROXIMITY.

Habitat: VERY NICE, COMPLEX RIPARIAN. MEDIUM SIZED STREAM THICKLY VEGETATED WITH WILLOW, MAPLE, COTTONWOOD, SQUAW BUSH, AND VARIOUS HERBACEOUS SPECIES. ONE OF THE BEST "IN TACT" RIPARIAN HABITATS I'VE SEEN IN S. UTAH - I'VE MONITORED RIPARIA

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated? AREAS FOR BLM - CEDAR CITY

NO OTHER WARBLER 'EXPECTED' IN THIS AREA WOULD SHOW THE INCREDIBLE GOLDEN YELLOW COVERING WHOLE HEAD, AND FRONT OF BODY. YELLOW WARBLER LACKS SLATE GRAY WINGS AND TAIL - HAS SMALLER, LIGHTER COLORED BILL. DIDN'T HAVE BLACK EYE SLASH AND WING BARS A BLUE WINGED WOULD HAVE.

What experience have you had with this and similar species: I WORKED/BIRDED AT CROSS CREEKS NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE, DOVER, TN WHERE PROTHONOTARY'S WERE ONE OF THE MOST COMMON BIRDS, NESTING IN TREE CAVITIES AND OUR BLUE BIRD BOXES.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: I TRIED TO TALK MYSELF OUT OF THE IDENTIFICATION, BUT CHECKING PETERSON'S GUIDE, NAT'L GEOGRAPHIC, AND FINALLY AUDUBON MASTER GUIDE, I COULD COME UP WITH NOTHING THAT "SHOULD" BE HERE FITTING THE DESCRIPTION.

Significance of record in this area or the state: I HAVE FOUND NO RECORD OF PROTHONOTARY'S IN UTAH (BEALE) BUT SOME SURROUNDING STATES HAVE RECORDS - CA, AZ, NM

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

COPY OF NOTES MADE 30 MINUTES AFTER SIGHTING - REWRITTEN ON SAME PAPER AS ORIGINALS AS THEY APPEARED.

Description from notes taken at time of sighting X notes made later X from memory

Observer: M. SHANE PRUETT

Signature: M. Shane Pruett

Address: P O BOX 252
SPRINGDALE UT 84767
(801) 772-3968

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Date prepared: 4/OCT/96

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
3868 Marsha Drive
West Valley City, Utah 84120

* PLEASE NOTIFY ME
REGARDING HOW THIS
IS DECIDED. I'M CERTAIN
BUT I'D LIKE TO KNOW
WHAT KIND OF RECORD
THIS IS. MSP
THANKS

28/SEPT/96 (CONT) -2-
- ANTIMONY CREEK.

BILL & EYE VERY BLACK -
BILL LARGE FOR WARBLER.
SLIGHTLY BIGGER THAN WILSON'S
LOOKS LIKE PROTHONOTARY?
TOO GRAY FOR YELLOW
WARB.
NO DARKNESS ON HEAD -
WILSON'S, BLUEWINGED.



28/SEPT/96 PRUETT
ANTIMONY CREEK CANYON

WHILE FISHING SAW SMALL
YELLOW BIRD IN WILLOWS
DOWN STREAM. THOUGHT
IT WAS WILSON'S WARB
COMMON. IT FLEW PAST
AND PERCHED A FEW
FEET AWAY. BRIGHT
YELLOW HEAD, FRONTAL
BODY. OLIVE GREEN
BACK - GRAY (SLATY-BLUE)
WINGS AND TAIL. WHITE
UNDERTAIL COVERTS.
POSSIBLE WHITE SPOTS
ON TAIL - UNCERTAIN