

FIRST RECORD OF PROTHONOTARY WARBLER FROM GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, ECUADOR

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THE PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*) winters primarily in Central and South America, extending to mainland Ecuador in the west (A.O.U. 1983). Here we report the first record of this species from the Galápagos Archipelago, nearly 1000 km west of mainland South America. This represents only the second record of a vagrant paruline warbler visiting the islands (see

Our observations lasted 20 minutes, while the bird gleaned insects from spider webs suspended between dead stems and annual herbs.

also Boag and Ratcliff 1979).

We observed the male Prothonotary Warbler on January 26, 1989 while conducting fieldwork on Darwin's finches on Isla Daphne Major, a small (ca. 32 ha.) eroded tuff cone.

Our observations lasted 20 minutes, from a distance of 5m using 7x40 binoculars, while the bird gleaned insects from spider webs (Petit and Petit 1988) suspended between dead stems of annual herbs (*Sida* and *Desmodium*). The bird did not appear injured or weakened and presumably left the island soon after our observations were made, as we did not see it again. The warbler was identified by its golden-yellow head and breast, olive-yellow back which blended into steel-gray wings and tail, flashing white tail spots in flight, white undertail coverts, gray legs, and size (12-14cm). One of us, Petit, has extensive experience working with Prothonotary Warblers in North America and had no difficulty identifying the bird. It was also seen and identified by a group of tourists visiting the island.

The preferred winter habitat of Prothonotary Warblers is usually mangrove swamps or moist second-growth forests (Stiles 1983; Hilty and Brown 1986), very different from the xeric, scrubby plant com-

munity on Daphne (see Grant *et al.* 1975). However, they are known to inhabit arid scrubby vegetation in Colombia (Hilty and Brown 1986) and Costa Rica (Stiles 1983) during the rainy season.

Bent (1953) reported that Prothonotary Warblers begin to migrate northward from Colombia in early February. Therefore, this individual, possibly a second-year bird (*i.e.*, hatched the previous summer) because of its light-colored bill (L. J. Petit, pers. comm.) may have gone astray while moving north from its wintering grounds. ■

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