

NOTES

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER IN OREGON

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A Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) captured 19 August 1976 in a mist net at Blue Sky, 1920 m elevation on the east slope of Hart Mountain, on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in Lake County is apparently the first record for Oregon. I took it from the net within 1 m of a small stream in riparian habitat dominated by Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and Mountain Alder (*Alnus tenuifolia*). This hatching-year (ca. 15% skull ossification) male in excellent plumage (no molt in progress), wing chord of 70 mm, and weight of 13.0 g (light fat) was banded, photographed (Figure 1), and released. Two color photographs showing the bright orange-yellow head and neck, the bluish-gray wing and tail feathers, white under tail coverts, and white inner webs of the tail feathers are on file with the Oregon Bird Records Committee and the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge.

The Prothonotary Warbler, according to the AOU Check-list (1957), normally breeds eastward from central eastern Minnesota and eastern Texas and southward from southern Michigan and central New York to the Gulf coast and central Florida. It winters from southern Mexico to central Columbia and northern Venezuela. There is one Washington record (Mattocks, Hunn and Wahl 1976) for Benton County in the south central part of the state on 5 September 1970. The northernmost California encounter, of four spring and ten fall records (DeSante and Roberson MS), is for 3 October 1975 on Point Reyes in Marin County on the central coast. The 19 August capture date for the Hart Mountain bird is the earliest fall date for the three Pacific coastal states.



Figure 1. Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) caught in mist net on Hart Mountain, Lake County, Oregon 19 August 1976.

LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1957. Check-list of North American Birds. Fifth ed. Am. Ornithol. Union, Baltimore, Md.
- DeSante, D. F. and D. Roberson. MS. A summary of the occurrences of rare and vagrant wood warblers (*Parulidae*) in California. West. Birds.
- Mattocks, P. W., Jr., E. S. Hunn and T. R. Wahl. 1976. A checklist of the birds of Washington State, with recent changes annotated. West. Birds 7:1-24.

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GREAT EGRET PREDATION ON A VIRGINIA RAIL

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At 1330 on 30 January 1975 we observed a Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) with a Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) struggling in its bill near Arcata, Humboldt County, California. The egret was standing along the edge of a slough overgrown with Broad-leaved Cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and Water Parsley (*Oenanthe sarmentosa*). The egret held the rail by the neck for about 7 minutes until the rail ceased to struggle. Throughout the 7 minutes the egret shook its head violently from side to side for several seconds at intervals of approximately 10 seconds. After the rail ceased all signs of life, the egret unsuccessfully attempted to swallow the rail headfirst several times. It was then startled by our presence and, carrying the rail, flew out of sight several hundred meters to a nearby pasture. We walked into the pasture and found the egret again, but it did not have the rail, and its neck did not appear distended as if it had swallowed anything. A Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) perched about 50 m from the egret was eating a bird approximately the size of the rail. Although we were unable to identify the hawk's prey, we believe the hawk probably pirated the rail from the egret.

Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 135, 1927) reported that ardeids occasionally prey on birds; however, the only previously published records of a Great Egret taking a bird appears to be the reports of Genelly (Condor 66:247, 1964) who saw a Great Egret with a Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) in this same area and Repenning (Auk 94:171, 1977) who saw a Great Egret preying on an unidentified sandpiper in New Jersey.

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