

# PROTHONOTARY WARBLER *PROTONOTARIA CITREA*, A NEW SPECIES FOR THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

By: Gunther Reck<sup>1</sup>, Roberto Plaza<sup>2</sup> & Gustavo Jiménez-Uzcátegui<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador.

<sup>2</sup>Conservation International, Puerto Ayora, Ecuador.

<sup>3</sup>Correspondence: Charles Darwin Research Station, Puerto Ayora, Ecuador. <gustavo.jimenez@fcdarwin.org.ec>

## SUMMARY

We document the first record of Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* in Galapagos, on Española Island in 2007.

## RESUMEN

**La Reinita protonotaria *Protonotaria citrea*, una nueva especie para las islas Galápagos.** Describimos el primer registro de la Reinita protonotaria *Protonotaria citrea* en Galápagos, Isla Española en 2007.

On 25 October 2007, GR, RP, W. Bustos, M. Oviedo, tourists and guides observed and photographed an unusual bird on Española Island (Fig. 1). At first it was thought to be an unusually coloured Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*. However, GR later identified the bird as a male Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea* on the basis of the strong and bright yellow color of the head and chest, and the contrastingly blue-grey wing and tail with extensive white flashes in the outer tail feathers. Subsequently, photographs of the bird permitted confirmation of the identification by P. Greenfield (pers. comm.). The bird seemed healthy, quite tame and was found foraging among the dry scrub vegetation at Punta Suárez.

This is the first record of a Prothonotary Warbler in Galapagos. The species is a migrant from North America, where it nests in an area from Minnesota to New York and from New Jersey to Texas and Florida (Meyer de Schauensee 1966). As a winter resident in Central and South America (including Ecuador) from September to April, it is found in secondary woodland and adjacent clearings and plantations, most often near water or lagoons (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). It was first recorded in continental Ecuador (in Esmeraldas) in the early 20th century (Chapman 1926), with later records in San Lorenzo, Pichincha (Mindó) and Napo (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

With this report, the number of bird species recorded in Galapagos grows to 177, of which 56 breed in the islands (Wiedenfeld 2006, Jiménez-Uzcátegui *et al.* 2007).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the Galapagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Station. Many thanks to Paul Greenfield for confirming the identification, and to David Wiedenfeld and Marta Tufet for reviewing this document. This is contribution number 2017 of the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands.



**Figure 1.** Prothonotary Warbler photographed on Española Island, 25 Oct 2007.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Chapman, F.M. 1926. The distribution of the bird-life in Ecuador. A contribution to a study of the origin of Andean bird-life. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 55.
- Jiménez-Uzcátegui, G., Milstead, B., Márquez, C., Zabala, J., Buitrón, P., Llerena, A., Salazar, S. & Fessl, B. 2007. Galapagos vertebrates: endangered status and conservation actions. Pp. 104–110 in CDF, GNP & INGALA (eds) *Galapagos Report 2006–2007*. Charles Darwin Foundation, Puerto Ayora.
- Meyer de Schauensee, R. 1966. *The Species of Birds of South America and their Distribution*. Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Pennsylvania.
- Ridgely, R.S. & Greenfield, P.J. 2001. *The Birds of Ecuador. Status, Distribution and Taxonomy*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca.
- Wiedenfeld, D.A. 2006. Lists of species. Aves, the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. *Check List* 2(2): 1–27.