

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Prothonotary Warbler nest in Allegany County: On 14 June 1992 at the invitation of Emma Lou King, a cautious and accurate observer from Allentown, New York, we traveled in the King's pontoon boat up Alma Pond, about three miles east of Alma in the Township of Alma, Allegany County, to see a pair of nesting Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) which the Kings had been observing for several days. Near the edge of the lake about a mile from the campground and across the lake from the road, Mrs. King called our attention to a loud, piercing song of five to seven repeated upward slurring notes, each beginning on the same tone: "shreet shreet shreet shreet shreet." The song was of a rich quality and intense. Soon after, the bird appeared and eventually perched for perhaps half a minute on a dead snag on a broken, branchless stub of a flooded tree five feet from shore at about eye level and 20 feet from us. At this time we were able to note all of the diagnostic markings of a Prothonotary Warbler: a warbler-sized bird with its entire head, breast, and most of its abdomen a striking golden yellow, a black bill which appeared longer and heavier than is normal for a warbler, a uniform dark gray back and wings with no markings of any kind, and white lower abdomen, undertail coverts, and part of the underside of the tail. Then the bird entered a hole in the snag, about 8.5 feet above the water's surface. After a few seconds, it looked out the hole for about three minutes, apparently unafraid, or perhaps unaware of us, and then flew to a low dead branch on a maple 35 feet away before disappearing again in the heavy foliage of the trees. During about the period from 1:20 until 2:30 PM, the bird sang at intervals, the periods of silence between groups of calls growing longer and longer, but it seldom came out from the nearly mature maple forest. In New York, Prothonotary Warbler nests sparsely and somewhat erratically in the plains bordering Lakes Erie and Ontario, and locally on Long Island. It was reported possibly nesting in Cattaraugus County by Eaton (p. 402 in Andrle, R. F., and Carroll, J. B., Eds. 1988. *Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York*. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, N.Y.), but this appears to be the first indication of its nesting in Allegany County.

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