

## SCOTT'S ORIOLE - - - - Icterus parisorum

On May 1, 1975, John and Joyce Cooper of Lakewood observed one sub-adult male (1st year) Scott's Oriole at Red Rocks Park, Morrison, Jefferson County. On the following day, May 2, 1975, J. V. Remsen Jr., also of Lakewood, saw the same bird at the same location. Written documentation submitted by these observers has been reviewed by the CFO Official Records Committee. Based upon the details furnished by Cooper and Remsen, the Records Committee has ruled to accept these Sight Reports and to add the Scott's Oriole to the Official State List of the Birds of Colorado (number 425).

John Cooper reported watching the bird from 10:00 A.M. until 10:30 A.M. as it deliberately fed on cottonwood catkins. It did not move more than fifteen feet during the one-half hour period of observation. Mr. Cooper described his bird as follows: "Slender black and yellow bird, slightly smaller than a Robin. Bill: Oriole-type - fairly long, uniformly tapered to sharp point; black. Crown and Forehead: Brownish-black; crown and nape show olive when viewed from rear. Nape: Brownish-black. Face: Brownish-black. Throat: Brownish-black. Eye: Black. Breast and Sides: Breast, brownish-black; sides, greenish-yellow. Belly and Flanks: Greenish-yellow. Undertail Coverts: Greenish-yellow. Back: Brownish-black with faint olive-green streaks. Wings: Brownish-black with two white wing-bars. Rump: Yellowish-green. Uppertail Coverts: Yellowish-green. Upper Side of Tail: Brownish-black. Under Side of Tail: Greenish-yellow. Shape of Tail: Rather long with rounded tip. The bird was silent." Similarly appearing species were satisfactorily eliminated.

Van Remsen reported: "An obvious Icterus with predominant colors greenish-yellow and black. Perhaps somewhat larger and chunkier than Bullock's. Bill: Typical oriole shape; very slight decurvature, moderate length, thick base, pointed tip and dark. Legs: Dark. Crown, Forehead and Nape: Entire head black. Face: Black. Eye: Dark. Throat: Black. Breast and Sides: Greenish-yellow (about color of female Orchard Oriole - perhaps somewhat greener). Belly, Flanks and Undertail Coverts: Greenish-yellow. Back: Greenish-yellow with dark, blackish longitudinal streaks. Wings: Dark with two white wing-bars. Rump: Greenish-yellow. Uppertail Coverts: Greenish-yellow. Upper Side of Tail: Blackish - some paler greenish color on outer tail feathers (proximal  $\frac{2}{3}$ ) - only seen as a flash in flight. Shape of Tail: Moderate length, slightly graduated. Behavior: Forged very deliberately in the top (30') of flowering cottonwood, probing into the flower clusters, sometimes hanging downwards. Voice: Gave a call note similar to that of Brewer's Blackbird." Similarly appearing species were satisfactorily eliminated.

Chairman's comments: Van Remsen took a number of color photographs of this bird. However, he returned to pursue his studies in South America before having them developed. Hopefully, the Records Committee will receive copies in the near future.

This has been the year for Scott's Oriole reports. The Records Committee is currently reviewing reports from Waterton, Golden, McCoy and Glenwood Springs in addition to an old record from Montezuma County (1966).

August 25, 1975

*Jack Reddall*

CHAIRMAN

CFO Official Records Committee



Species: Scott's Oriole (Vernacular Name) Icterus parisorum (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): 2 May 1975 Time Bird Seen: 0900 to 0915

Locality: Red Rocks Park

Nearest Town: Morrison County: Jefferson

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
John and Joyce Cooper (found it May 1)	1041 Field St., Lakewood	
Robert Andrews		

Optical Equipment: 10x50 binocs

Light Conditions: excellent sun from behind

Distance from Bird (how measured): 40' (distance indicator on camera focus)

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: male Plumage: 1st-year

Overall Appearance and Size: an obvious Icterus with predominant colors greenish-yellow and black, perhaps somewhat larger or chunkier than Bullocks

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): typical oriole shape (moderate length, thick base, pointed tip) and dark

Legs (shape and color): dark

Crown and Forehead: black Eye (color): dark

Nape: black Face: black Throat: black

Breast and Sides: greenish yellow - about color of Orchard Oriole ♀ - perhaps somewhat greener

Belly and Flanks: "

Undertail Coverts: "

Back: " with darker, blackish longitudinal streaks

Wings: dark with two white wingbars

Underwings: not observed

Rump: greenish yellow Uppertail Coverts: greenish yellow

Upper Side of Tail: blackish - some paler greenish color on outer tail feathers (proximal 1/2) - not only seen as a flash in flight

Under Side of Tail: not observed

Shape of Tail: moderate length, slightly graduated

Voice: gave a call note similar to that of Brewster's Blackbird

Behavior: Foraged very deliberately in the top (30') of flowering cottonwoods, probing into the flower clusters, sometimes hanging downwards

Habitat: dry cottonwood - scruboak draw at the edge of the foothills with large rock formations and occasional juniper nearby

Prior Experience with this Species: ~ 20 observations in California + Arizona. Very familiar with Bullocks, Baltimore Hooded, Orchard.

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Solid greenish-yellow underparts eliminates Northern Striped back eliminates all other N.American orioles. Black crown and nape eliminates Imm. Striped-backed Oriole (I. sclateri) which never has black there in any plumage. Size eliminates Orchard Oriole (besides back streaks)

I took pictures of the bird - will send them in when developed

This Report was Written From: Notes made during after X observation; Memory

Signed: Van Kesteren Street Address: Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, CA 94720

Date Prepared: 5/12/75 Town and State: Berkeley, CA ZIP: 94720



Species: SCOTT'S ORIOLE  
 (Vernacular Name)

Icterus parisorum  
 (Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): May 1, 1975 Time Bird Seen: 10:00 to 10:30 AM, MDT

Locality: Red Rocks Park

Nearest Town: Morrison County: Jefferson

Other observers who identified this bird:

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

Joyce W. Cooper

1041 Field St

Lakewood Colo

237-4855

Optical Equipment: 10x50 binoc. & 25x60 Bushnell spotting scope

Light Conditions: Fair, Bright sunshine at our backs

Distance from Bird (how measured): 70 ft estimated

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: Sub-adult

Overall Appearance and Size: slender black-and-yellow bird slightly smaller than Robin. Bill shape and color pattern clearly that of oriole

Detailed Description (describe only what was actually observed in the field):

Bill (shape and color): Oriole-type: fairly long, uniformly tapered to sharp point, black

Legs (shape and color): not seen

Crown and Forehead: Brownish black <sup>Crown and nape show olive when viewed from rear</sup> and feathers ruffled

Nape: Brownish black Face: Brownish black Throat: Brownish black Eye (color): Black

Breast and Sides: Brownish black; sides greenish yellow

Belly and Flanks: Greenish yellow

Undertail Coverts: Greenish yellow

Back: Brownish black with faint olive-green streaks

Wings: Brownish black with 2 white wing bars

Underwings: not seen

Rump: Yellowish green

Uppertail Coverts: Yellowish green

Upper Side of Tail: Brownish black

Under Side of Tail: Greenish yellow

Shape of Tail: Rather long with rounded tip

Voice: Silent

Behavior: Deliberately feeding on cottonwood catkins all the time we watched it. Did not move more than 15 ft. in 1/2 hour

Habitat: Grassland with scattered cottonwoods and patches of brush

Prior Experience with this Species: Seen many times in southern Arizona and once in Big Bend area of Texas. [All these sightings in normal breeding range of the species]

How Were Similarly Appearing Species Eliminated? Size, bill shape and color pattern (i.e. pattern of black and bright color) eliminate all species but Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. These eliminated by greenish yellow color instead of orange or chestnut, and by remnant olive streaks on back. The lack of perceptible yellow in wings and on upper surface of tail near its base could be due to sub-adult plumage or to concealment. Bob Andrews who saw the bird in flight May 2 says he did see the distinctive Redstart-like yellow patches in tail.

This Report was Written From: Notes made during ☒ observation; ☐ Memory

Signed: John R. Cooper Street Address: 1041 Field St

Date Prepared: May 6, 1975 Town and State: Lakewood, Colo. ZIP 80211



What was doubtless the same Scott's Oriole  
was seen by many observers at least through  
Saturday afternoon May 3, 1975. Among others  
were Bob Andrews, Van Rensen, Warren Feich,  
Marge Elliot, Mr & Mrs. Bill Stetz. I think  
there were probably more and possibly ~~several~~  
sightings after May 3. Is there some  
way to make sure we get the last  
sighting of our rare birds?