

Species: SCOTT'S ORIOLE

Icterus parisorum

(Vernacular Name)

(Scientific Name-use binomial)

Date(s): June 15, 16, and 17, 1975 Time Bird Seen: 9:00 a. m. to 7:40 p. m. (below)  
 Locality: McCoy, Colo., Eagle County, bird came to hummingbird feeder south side of house  
 Nearest Town: McCoy, Colo. County: Eagle County

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Clark Ewing	Box 585, McCoy, Colo.	926-3610
Kenneth Ewing	"	"

Optical Equipment: Binoculars not needed Kingery  
 If photographed, type of equipment used: Petrie 7, 35 mm, print made from slide sent to Hugh  
 Light Conditions: Bird photographed in partial shade because of recessed window where feeder  
 Distance from bird (how measured): 3 feet hangs

Number of Birds Seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: Not quite full adult

Describe the bird's overall behavior and demeanor:

The bird came to the feeder which is one with a cup and several holes on the sides. It would sit on top of the cup and bend over to reach in to the sugar syrup. The first day we saw the bird (June 15) we were gone most of the day, and it was 5:00 p. m. when we first observed it, and it returned at half-hour intervals until 7:40 p. m. After leaving the feeder it would fly into the tall cottonwood trees in front of the house, and we would hear it singing. June 16 it began trips to the feeder at 9:00 a. m. and came as late as 6:00 p. m. June 17 we first saw it at 10:15 and after 5:15 p. m. it

Describe in great detail the bird's size, overall shape, plumage and color-pattern, never re- Include details on shape of bill, wings and tail. Give particular emphasis to the marks turned you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance in field guide descriptions (see next page) is not enough. Describe what you actually saw in the field: below

The bird was very similar in size and shape to the Bullock's Oriole, but with a black head, eye and bill. When the head was in direct sunlight the feathers had a greenish caste. The underparts of body and tail were a definite greenish yellow which gave a dingy appearance. The back was dark greenish and the wing bars were not discernible when it perched on the cup although in flight we could see a trace of light feathers. The black on the throat, which also had a greenish caste in the sun, came down in a V shape permitting the yellow on the breast to continue on over the top of the shoulder. The yellow pattern on the tail was not yet clearly defined and the tail on top looked dark except when it flew from the cup.

The bird seemed wary of people and dogs, and came to the feeder only when all was quiet, but I wouldn't call it timid. The feeder is quite close to our window. Clark took two pictures one day but the click of the camera scared it away. When it fed in the cottonwood tree June 16 I heard it chattering as does the Bullock's Oriole.

(OVER)



Describe the bird's song or call, if heard, including method of delivery, i.e., from perch, in flight, etc:

The song was heard as the bird perched in nearby cottonwood trees, 50 feet from the house. It was very similar to the western meadowlark except softer in tone-- that is, not as ringing. The bird would sing four or five times at intervals of about two to three minutes.

Describe the habitat in which you observed this bird:

Our area is a valley at 7000 ft. altitude located between hills of pinyon pine and juniper. Rock Creek runs through the valley and many large cottonwood trees grow along irrigation ditches as well as along the creek. Our house is about one block from the main street of McCoy which has only ten buildings.

How were similarly appearing species eliminated?

No other species of oriole has ever come to the hummingbird feeder. It had no trace of orange or brown, but was a definite greenish yellow and greenish black. The Bullock's Oriole is orange, not yellow. The Black-headed Oriole, which I understand is very retiring and not easy to see even in its territory in Mexico and the tip of Texas, has a soft low whistle.

Prior experience with this and similarly appearing species:

A beautiful fully developed male was seen in the cottonwood tree in the same area on May 12, 1973. Another bird was with it but not visible because of the leaves. The male perched for about five minutes in the dead branch at the top of the tree.

Books, illustrations and advice consulted and how did these influence this documentation?

Audubon Western Bird Guide, Richard H. Pough. Pough says this bird feeds at agave blossoms (which may account for its attraction to the feeder) and "gleans caterpillars and other insects from foliage of trees".

Peterson's Field Guide also mentions the agave blossoms.

This report was written from notes made during   x   after   x   observation; from memory   75  

PRINT NAME: Margaret Ewing

Street Address: Box 585, 3 McCoy Road

SIGNATURE: Margaret Ewing DATE: Aug. 10, 19

Town and State: McCoy, Colo. ZIP: 80463

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