

Species: SCOTT'S ORIOLE
(Vernacular name)

(Scientific name)

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 7-24-77Time Bird Seen: Approx. 3:00 to 3:10Locality: Dinosaur National Monument Headquarters Housing Area
Dinosaur, Colorado
Nearest town, county and state:Optical equipment: 7X35 Binoculars - Bushnell

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: _____

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Female Plumage: _____Light conditions: Good - Mid AfternoonDistance from bird, and how measured: Approx. 75'

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Saw bird from picture window of Steve Petersburg's house 200' to 300' away and thought the bird was probably a female Bullock's Oriole. The bird had flown from one Juniper tree to another which seemed somewhat unusual. The bird stayed in the upper third of the tree long enough to get the binoculars. The bird then flew from tree to tree (all Junipers although shade trees were near) in a westerly direction. Distance of flights averaged 75' to 100'. The bird finally flew off to the west and north away from the housing area and into the Piñon Juniper.

The habitat is the edge of a housing area (no open water near) in contact with medium density Juniper Piñon. Terrain hogbacks.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

Steve Petersburg Dinosaur National MonumentDinosaur, Co. 81610

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field.

The bird was the same size as the Bullock's Oriole which are fairly common in cottonwood trees in those areas that have enough water to support the trees. The shape was right for an Oriole as this was my first thought even from a substantial distance. The color pattern was an overall yellow tinged with green. The bird seemed to have one wing bar. ~~more prominent than the~~ The back was darker and definitely streaked. The eyes were dark. The bill did not seem to me to be that much different than other Orioles. I did not notice anything outstanding about the tail.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: No calls given.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Bullock's Oriole - this is what I first thought the bird to be and went to the book ~~on~~ only because ^{all} Bullock's Orioles are ~~not common~~ observation for Dinosaur National Monument have been within 1/4 mi of the Green and Yampa rivers and all have been in Deciduous trees. The only difference I could ascertain was the fairly heavily streaked back.

Hopded Oriole - we were looking for a curved beak as suggested in "Birds of N.A." Also no previous observations of N.A. Prior experience with this and similar species:

Western Tanager - This bird is fairly common in this area and we usually do not have much trouble ^{with} confusing it with Orioles with regard to size and profile.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory X.

NAME (print): Joe Alston

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Signature: Joseph J. Alston

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