

APPENDIX II

A 54-81-17

DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS  
FOR  
THE COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS' RECORDS

Species: Scott's Oriole ; Icterus parisorum  
(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.

Dates (s): See attached Time Bird Seen: see attached to

Locality : NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec 35, T36N, R20W, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec 11, and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec 14 T36N, R20W  
Pleasantview, Montezuma County, Colorado  
Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: 7X35 Binoculars, 15-60X variable Telescope

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmed 4

Number of birds seen: Probable 5 Sex: 2 F 3M Plumage: Mature

Light conditions: clear - partly cloudy bright sunlight through dusk

Distance from bird, and how measured: 50 ft to 100 yds.

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Males singing from taller shrubs and scattered PJ. Male at site 2 observed to pursue mockingbird. Females only observed foraging. Pair at site 2 consistently remained within territory together. Pair at site 1 frequently split, male sometimes up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from expected territory center. Site 3 not investigated.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird: \_\_\_\_\_

Site 1 Mesa and drainage with big sage and saltbush, PJ on slopes and shallow soils. Reservoirs dry. Springs available within  $\frac{1}{2}$  Mi.

Site 2 Basin with greasewood & some rabbitbrush, scattered juniper. Springs & seeps  $\frac{1}{2}$  Mi.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):  
James Cleaves 683 4th Ave Durango, Co 81301  
Ron French P.O. Box 272 Norwood, Co 81423



APPENDIX II Continued

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. Birds approximately same shape and size as common Bullock's orioles. Males with bright yellow body plumage and black throat, head, and upper back; black wings with yellow shoulder patches and white wingbars; yellow on black "redstart" tail pattern. Female duller yellow beneath, yellow-olive back with brownish-olive striping pattern (striping obvious only at fairly close range).

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

Males singing while perched from taller shrubs and sapling junipers. Male at site 2 would perch at territory periphery and sing at human observer when disturbed.

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

Bullock's oriole - Birds observed have no orange coloration, have solidly colored black head, yellow shoulder patch on wing.

Black-headed oriole has yellow upper back and lacks "redstart" pattern on tail

Prior experience with this and similar species:

Two temporary employees, James Cleaves, and Ron French have both previously seen Scott's orioles in Arizona. Neither I or William Sharp had seen Scott's prior to this year. We are both familiar with Bullock's and Baltimore orioles.

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

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Name (print) : Clair Button

Mailing address: BLM San Juan Resource Area 701 Camino Del Rio, Durango, Co 81301

Signature: Clair F. Button

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Return Form To:

CFO Records Committee  
c/o Curator - Dept. of Zoological Collections  
Denver Museum of Natural History  
City Park  
Denver, CO 80205



54-81-17

Site 1. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec 35, T37N, R20W, NMPM Montezuma County, Colorado

Date	Time	Observer	
5/21/81	0930	W. Sharp	Lone male 1/3 mile sw of above
5/26/81	1145	C. Button	Lone male at dry reservoir site
5/26/81	1500-1700	C. Button	Pair - simultaneous with obs at site 2
5/27/81	1630	J. Cleaves	Pair at reservoir site singing male
5/28/81	1130	J. Cleaves	Lone female.

Site 2. S $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec 11, T36N, R20W, NMPM Montezuma County, Colorado

5/7/81	1100	R. French	Pair flushed from vicinity
5/12/81	0900	C. Button	Pair observed with telescope territorial defense and singing
5/13/81	1030	C. Button	Pair seen from road
5/26/81	1400-1900	J. Cleaves	Pair - simultaneous with obs. at site 1
5/27/81	1000-1200	J. Cleaves	Pair-foraging behavior, no incubating
5/28/81	1530-2100	J. Cleaves	Pair Male singing
5/29/81	0730-0900	J. Cleaves	Pair - foraging (Note: before and
5/29/81	1300	J. Cleaves	Pair (after obs. at site 3
6/4/81	0915	C. Button	Pair - male singing

Site 3. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec 14, T36N, R20W, NMPM

4/28/81	1340	C. Button	Lone male headed south when disturbed.
5/29/81	1100	J. Cleaves	Singing male (Bracketed by obs. at site 2)