

1997-106
ACCEPTED 7-2

SIGHT RECORD FORM

rec'd 9-4-97 ✓

PHOTOS

UNUSUAL RECORD

Species: Baltimore Oriole - Icterus galbula

Date: 28 August 1997

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: male

Plumage Breeding

Locality: Residence at 7420 Spring Drive

Elevation: 5600 ft.

Nearest town: Boulder County: Boulder

Time observed: 1345-1355

Duration of observation: approx. 10 minutes

Other observers present when we were there:
none

Observers who saw the bird independently:
none

Light conditions for first sighting:
Ideal; afternoon sunlight

Optical equipment:
Zeiss 7x42 binoculars (Suzi)
Leica 10x42BA binoculars (Myron)

Distance to bird:
30-50 feet; in trees in our yard

Photography:
none

Behavior:
The bird was first observed feeding, presumably on insects, in Russian Olive trees in our back yard; then flew across the yard to feed in a Honey Locust tree in side yard, then to a second locust tree along driveway.

Description of bird:
Size: Robin-sized or slightly smaller
Plumage: Head black, eye black; Back - not seen well - bird was always fairly high in trees; underparts and sides brilliant orange (without the yellow-orange tint of Bullock's Oriole); Wings black with white wing bar (not the broad white patch of Bullock's); Tail - black with orange on outer edges.
Bill: black, moderately long and pointed
Legs and feet: not seen well

Song and call: not heard

Habitat in which bird was observed:
Our back and side yards, which have numerous trees: Ponderosa Pine, Russian Olive, Honey Locust, apple, pear, Hackberry, plus numerous shrubs including lilacs, wild plums, etc.

Elimination of similarly-appearing species:

Only Bullock's Oriole is similar, among birds which could be found in this area. Bullock's has a slightly more yellow-orange tint overall (we recognized the deeper orange of the Baltimore Oriole when it first flew among the trees, before we had positive looks at the all-black head and white wing bar). Bullock's has a yellow-orange face with a black cap and black eye line, and a large white wing patch, which are totally different from the Baltimore Oriole.

All summer we have had a family of 6 Bullock's Orioles that have lived in our yard and eaten at our feeders, as we have for the last 6 summers, so we have seen enough Bullock's Orioles in our yard alone to know the difference.

Prior experience with this species:

We are both thoroughly familiar with Baltimore Orioles, having grown up with them in the habitats in which we formerly lived, all considerably east of Colorado: New Jersey (Suzi), South Dakota (Myron), and when we lived in Indiana, they were the common orioles.

Books and references consulted:

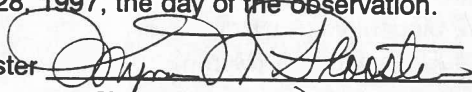
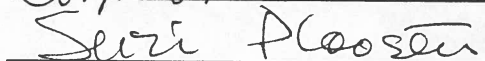
National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America was consulted just to revisit an old friend.

This report is written at 1730 hours on August 28, 1997, the day of the observation.

REPORTING OBSERVER:

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