

Common Name: Orchard Oriole Scientific Name: Icterus spurius
Date: 5/29/90 Time: 1215-1225 Length of time observed: c. 10 min
Number: 1 Age: ? Sex: ♂

Location: behind Apt. D, Fruit Lane

Latilong: Elevation (if known): 5300 feet

Distance to bird: ca. 25 feet Light conditions: good - clear, sunny

Optical equipment: 7x50 binoculars - not needed!

Weather: calm, clear

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

Slender, pointed bill; very dark-looking bird except when in full sun. Head solid black, tail black, no white on wings, chest belly + undertail coverts a rich chestnut-red, or perhaps rust is a better color. Somewhat smaller (c. 80% size of) Northern (Bullock's) Oriole. Medium-sized, somewhat larger than a Starling.

Voice or call notes and method of delivery: none

Behavior: Was foraging slowly up and down the branches, probing slowly for insects in leaves, was not afraid of me

Habitat: Cottonwood - Populus fremontii, riparian zone of Sulphur Creek

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated:

Other orioles → lacked the white + orange of N. Oriole. No other bird in the region has the chestnut colors, although robins come close.

What experience have you had with this and similar species:

none with the Orchard Oriole, but extensive experience with both N. Orioles + Scott's Orioles

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:

Used Peterson's latest ed of W. Birds → no influence

Significance of record in this area or the state: new to state

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

Description from notes taken at time of sighting _____ notes made later X from memory X

Observer: John Spence

Signature:

c. 10 minutes later

Address: 117 Fruit Lane
Capitol Reef N.P.
Torrey, UT 84775

John Spence

Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Steve Van Valkenburg - Naturalist with NPS
now at Lake Tahoe

Date prepared:

10/2/91

Return this form to:

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