Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Bullock's Oriole 19 Dec 1992 Johnston, Polk Co., IA *Dennis Thompson IBL 63:52, 66:97 Record Number: 95-AC Classification: NA

Printed: 11/20/00

DOCUMENTATION

Dennis Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct.

REFERENCES

Field Report: IBL 63:52, 1993 Records Committee: IBL 66:97

VOTE: 6 NA, 1 A-D

NA on Bullock's Oriole, A-D on Bullock's/Baltimore Oriole, Occasional Baltimore Oriole can be yellow rather than orange. From the description, I don't think it is possible to say with any certainty if this was a Bullock's. Black on the sides of the face suggests Baltimore or Bullock/Baltimore intergrade.

NA, At the risk of being removed from the Records Committee, this sounds like a Scott's to me. Duluth has a confirmed summer record, so there must be occasional vagrancy. The secondhand report from near Thompson's adds to the possibility. Unfortunately, there's not enough to go on unless one argues that there is no other yellow oriole with a streaked back.

NA, The details sighted from these brief looks are not conclusive enough for me to determine what species of immature male oriole was present.

NA, Streaking on back and black extending on to face are suggestive of Baltimore/Bullock's intergrade as suggested by the observer.

NA, A brief view of an interesting oriole. I don't know enough to make an educated guess. Not sure of age or sex (not adult male). Not sure Orchard Oriole is excluded. I see no reason to call this a hybrid.

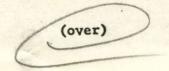
A-D, Has characteristics of Bullock's, especially large white wing bar patch.

NA, This intriguing bird probably is an intergrade of Balt & Bullock's as Dennis concluded. Otherwise, I am stumped also.

(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio) BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD. 95-AC 1. Species Northern Oriole: (Bullocks/Baltimore Intergrade) 2. Number: 3. Location 7503 Wild lower Ct. Johnston In. (My 4. Date: 12/19/92 +12/20/92 5. Time Bird seen: Mid-atternate both days 6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): Approximately robin-sized with a relatively thin, pointed bill. Breast bright yellow as opposed to green or orange, Extensive black on the throat. Gray-green back with durk streaks. White wing bar with extensive white in the upper wing, almost forming a wing partch. Top & back of the head was clark, but I'm not sure if it was solid black. I wasn't able to not any marks for the tail. I know this is a brief description but I only saw the bird for a few seconds on both days.

7. Description of voice, if heard: 8. Description of behavior: 12/19 - Lit on a suetfeeder for less than a minute. 12/20-Lit on a finch feeder for less than a minute 9. Habitat - general: specific: Feeder set-up (7 Leeders, no fruit) at the edge of a wooded raune less than a mile from the Nes Moines River just south of Suyloruille Dam.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: Evening Grosbeak by the bill + color pattern, White in the wing too extensive for young orchard Oriole. Also seemed bugger than an Orchard Oriole. Brightyellow underparts + streaked buck rule out several other orioles. Immeture Scott's are described as "gray-green" below, 12. Optical equipment: Naked eye 11. Distance (how measured)? As close as 20 feet 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Sun light Iwas 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen most of the western orioles, but not the immatures. I'm very familiar with Northern (Bultimore) Oriole 15. Other observers: My wite, Lecille 16. Did the others agree with your identification? She agrees with the field marks, 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: None 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Looked at every field guide Iown. Bird most closely resembles the immature make Bullock's "pictured in Auduban Master Guide. Only problem is it had much more black on the throat (+ head?) giving a hooded appearance, 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 days Signature



While working in the basement on 12/19, I looked out the sliding glass door and saw a larger, black + yellow bird working its way out of the varine toward the feeders. Thinking it was an Evening Grosbeak, I hollered at Cecille to look out the kitchen window. The bird landed on a suet feeder about 25 feet away, & I immediately realized it was an oriole. It stayed on the teeder for less than a minute, then flew back to the vavine, then across the street out of sight. It had its back to me most of the time. The streaked, dusky back was obvious. The breast was very yellow, but I don't know how far the yellow extended on the underparts. I didn't notice any details on the rump or tail. There was definitely black on the chest of throut. Consulting the field guides, the description + picture of the immature male "Bullouc's" oriole seemed to match What I had seen. I notified Armstrong tothers that night what I had seen, Bused on the bird's brief appearance + the fact it flew rapidly out of sight, I wasn't very hopeful of seeing it again. On 12/20, I participated in the nearby Saylorville Christmas Count. I returned home at 2:30, waiting for compilation at 5:00. Sitting on the couch reading the paper, I looked up and the oriole. was sitting on a finch freeder attached to window less than 20 feet away! He sat there for a few seconds, then again flew across the street out of sight. This time I again noticed the very yellow underparts, but the black on the throat was much more extensive than what I had noted the day before. It almost had a hooded effect. It definitely extended up the sides of the face. Now I'm not sure what the bird is. All the possibilities seem quite unlikely, I would lean toward a Bullock's Bultimore intergrade. No one ever saw the bird again.

Addendum - 2/15 - A further note before I send this in: In late January, Eugene Armstrong got a call from " woman who said she saw a Scott's Drivle at her feeder. She had only a brief look, t was using Nat'l Geographic Society Field guide as a reference. She lives on Lover Beaver Road near Rioneer wavehouse, which is about a mile from where I live. She had never seen the hird before, t realized it was rate. She wanted to be toome one know, t somehow got Eugene's name, Unfortunately, he didn't catch her name, but she promised to call him if she saw the bird again. He never heard back from her.

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Denny Myxan Address: 7503 W. 12 Sloner C+
Signature
Date: 12/22/42. City, State: Johnston, In.
(over)

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