

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

CBC

What species? NORTHERN ORIOLE (BALTIMORE RACE) How many? 1

Location? BIRD FEEDER, 100 THOMPSON DRIVE S.E., CEDAR RAPIDS

Type of Habitat? SUBURBAN AREA, WITH CONDOMINIUMS, PRIVATE HOMES, LAWNS & TREES

When? date(s): 12-15-90; Seen almost every day time: — to —
(Christmas Court) throughout December.

Who? your name and address: Pete Wickham

Others with you: None

Others before or after you: There are 3 people operating feeders who recognized it immediately and reported it ultimately. Also, Jim Durbin took photos.

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I think the photo says it all: a typical male (adult) Northern Oriole, with totally black head and eye, black wings with many white stripes and streakings, and an unbelievably bright orange body. Tail black in center and at base of outer feathers, but outer tail feathers orange further out.

Bird was a little smaller than a Robin. Came to these three feeders all the time in the cold weather. The feeder operators set out jelly and citrus fruit for it. The bird was not seen after ~~28~~ December 28, but did manage to make it through the very cold weather of Dec. 21-23, and remained quite active until its disappearance.

Similar species; how eliminated:

There are no similar species that I can think of. It wasn't a Bullock's type, which would have orange on the face and a big white wing patch.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No.

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

20-25' through window at feeder.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

LOTS!

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NONE

How long before field notes made? 12-31-90 this form completed? 12-31-90

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).

BIRD WAS SEEN REPEATEDLY THROUGH DECEMBER AT FEEDER.
JIM DURBIN'S PHOTO WAS MADE IN LATE DECEMBER. (DEC. 26)