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| YOUR NAME | Alan Contreras |
| YOUR EMAIL | acontrer56@gmail.com |
| BIRD IDENTIFICATION | Orchard Oriole, female-type plumage |
| DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION | October 14, 2021 |
| TIME OF DAY | 1:45 PM |
| LOCATION | Waite Ranch, private property three miles upriver from Florence, Lane Co. The habitat is a dense mix of saplings, blackberry tangles, dense grass and low shrubbery. |
| LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS | Calm conditions, partial overcast, no rain |
| DETAILS | The bird was found feeding low in shrubbery and ground cover (not unusual in this species) and moved up to the top of a 15-foot sapling before flying to several other small trees. The initial observer thought it might be some kind of finch before it came out in the open. Entire underparts and most of the face were a fairly bright lemon yellow with no streaking. cap and back were a duller yellowish. The yellowish tail was slender and long, proportionately similar to the nearby Golden-crowned Sparrows, not as long as many orioles. At one point it was flicked in a buntinglike sideways motion; I'm not sure if this is a field mark, as it has been about 20 years since I saw any number of this species. Wings were grayish with white wingbars. Bill was narrow, pointed and not very long for an oriole. No sounds were heard. Other observers Magnus Persmark and Diane Pettey. |
| DO YOU HAVE ANY PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES? | Many times when I lived in Missouri and during eastern travels. |
| SIMILAR SPECIES | When it perched up it was obviously a small oriole. It was too small and compact for a Hooded and the tail and bill were too short. It was also a very plain smooth yellow, no orange tones and no extensive grayish or dark marks. |
| DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS? | No |
| Thank you for submitting your sighting to the Oregon Bird Records Committee! Is there anything else you would like to add? | Bird was sought the next day and not found. No photos were obtained. |

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| YOUR EMAIL | d.koastie69@gmail.com | Note: d.koastie69@gmail.com is Diane Pettey |
| BIRD IDENTIFICATION | One female Orchard Oriole, age unknown. | |
| DATE(S) OF OBSERVATION | October 14, 2021 | |
| TIME OF DAY | 1:30 PM | |
| LOCATION | Lane County, OR. McKenzie River Trust Waite property, at North edge of area where barn used to be. Bird was in stunted tree (alder?) at edge of misc. blackberry, teasel, thistle and other native/non-native grass/sedge growth. | |
| LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS | mostly clear, low-mid-50s | |
| DETAILS | <p>I believe this bird was a female. I observed it had dark eyes, no eye ring, a rounded, slightly olive-tinged head and mantle. I noticed a uniform lemon-colored throat and breast, dark grayish wings with two white wing bars, both the same width. It also had a thin, dark, decurved bill. I also saw it's tail flick up about the time someone said they heard a chip call.</p> <p>It was loosely associating with crowned sparrows, and was skittish and skulky. I saw it fly low into thick plant tangles after our initial sighting but was unable to get a clear view of it's underwing to see how much white it had. I saw the bird reappear twice, both times in more distant scrub.</p> <p>This was all in about a ten-fifteen minute period.</p> | |
| DO YOU HAVE ANY PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS SPECIES? | <p>Yes. Two years ago in Newport, OR. Also observed in Texas and eastern US.</p> <p>I've have seen Hooded Orioles many times while living and birding in California and Arizona, and this was not, in my experience, a Hooded Oriole.</p> | |
| SIMILAR SPECIES | <p>This bird had a longer tail, uniformly white wing bars and thinner, slightly longer, decurved darker bill than Western Tanager.</p> <p>It appeared smaller (about the size of nearby Golden-crowned Sparrows) and had a more olive-tinged, slightly scaly-looking mantle and back than a Hooded Oriole. It had a rounder shape to it's head and lacked any orange tint to it's lemon-colored throat & breast. It had a shorter bill and tail than Hooded Oriole, It lacked any white on lower breast like a Bullock's Oriole.</p> | |
| DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS? | No | |
| Thank you for submitting your sighting to the Oregon Bird Records Committee! Is there anything else you would like to add? | no | |

OROR-2021-19 (Orchard Oriole)
1st round voting – March 2, 2022

Accepted: 8
Not Accepted: 1

ACCEPTED, MULTIPLE SIGHT REPORT

Both descriptions adequately narrow it down to Hooded or Orchard Oriole for me. Female Hooded versus Orchard Oriole identifications can be challenging even with photos, but I feel the observers' descriptions provide adequate details for me to call this an Orchard. They both note the bird's small size, slim bill and tail proportions, head shape, back patterning, habits, and overall color, all of which point to Orchard. However, without photos it is hard to be certain. For now I feel fine with accepting this as Orchard.

Adequately described by experienced observers. Potentially confusing similar species like Hooded Oriole and Western Tanager were adequately eliminated.

All field marks are good for Orchard Oriole with the possible exception of "long tail." However, the clarification that its tail was proportionately shorter than other orioles allows me to comfortably accept.

Good descriptions by two experienced observers, enough to rule out similar oriole species.

Both observers mention tail shorter than Hooded Oriole and both have experience with species.

Both observers are familiar with Orchard Oriole and the descriptions are convincing. Hooded Oriole is eliminated by size and the lack of streaking on the back eliminates a juvenile female Scott's Oriole.

Not a species and plumage that is easy to feel 100% confidence in from written descriptions alone, but these descriptions are quite good and the observers are highly experienced. All things considered, I feel the descriptions rule out other possibilities convincingly enough, notably Hooded Oriole and Western Tanager.

Solid descriptions of color, structure, and size.

NOT ACCEPTED

It's well known that icterus identification is challenging, especially during the off season concerning female/immature types. Although the descriptions sound pretty good for a Orchard Oriole, I don't feel fully confident that a similarly aged Hooded Oriole can be completely eliminated from the reports. Put differently, I am given pause by how quickly both observers seem to have brushed aside an ID of Hooded Oriole. Although overall shape/size, bill size, and coloration have been focused on most, and they do sound better for a OROR, I would argue that the margins for all these features can be extremely fine between the species in question and a Hooded Oriole. The described length of the tail is nearly absent in one report, and is described as "...slender and long, proportionally similar to the nearby Golden-crowned Sparrows, not as long as many orioles...". In the past year, I have seen robust debate happen among seasoned birders over images of female/immature orioles (Hooded vs Orchard). It can be a really hard ID at times, even with photos, and bill size, overall size, and tail length have pretty thin margins, and perceived sizes can be rather subjective. So yes, I'm voting to not accept for now, as I would like to discuss this report with other members before potentially accepting.

OROR-2021-19 (Orchard Oriole) 2nd round vote – May 10, 2022

Accepted: 9
Not Accepted: 0

ACCEPTED, sight record, multiple reports

I am sticking with accepting this record. I agree with [other committee member] in that the descriptions seemed dismiss Hooded Oriole fairly quickly and potentially without sufficient discussion, however, this does not sway me enough to change my vote. Hooded and Orchard Orioles have different feels in the field, and with some experience with and knowledge of both, I think that the identification is less challenging. In this case, observer experience, in addition to the descriptions, continue to convince me that this bird was an Orchard Oriole.

While Hooded Oriole can no doubt be a challenge to separate from Hooded Oriole, I think the description of "too small and compact for a Hooded," and "the tail and bill were too short" seems adequate to rule this species out. I think the initial description of the tail being "slender and long" was relative to that of a finch, which was one observer's first impression.

While I appreciate [other committee member]'s note of caution regarding these reports, I continue to feel that the descriptions are adequately detailed and eliminate Hooded Oriole in my opinion.

While I think the descriptions are a bit lacking, I still think there's enough here to accept. But note [other committee member]'s points on potential difficulty in ruling out Hooded Oriole in this plumage. I am comfortable relying on the experience of the observers regarding the accuracy of their observations. Both observers noted olive or yellow color in the mantle. Their consistent views on the apparent size and shape of the bird (similar to Golden-crowned Sparrow) also make me more confident the identification is accurate, but happy to discuss in the 3rd round if need be. While Hooded Oriole is only slightly bigger, it is a lankier, longer-tailed bird, which should appear markedly different to GCSP in size and structure, rather than similar.

I think combined reports point to Orchard

Observers experienced and described a behavior of foraging low in bushes that is typical for OROR. Small size was noted and another good indication was the first impression of something smaller than an oriole and then switched to oriole.

While I agree that the identification of Orchard versus Hooded Oriole females can be very challenging at times, both of these very experienced observers clearly stated why they felt confident ruling out HOOR, and based on their detailed descriptions, I tend to agree and feel okay to accept this sighting.

It seems the rest of the committee doesn't share my reservations here, at least enough to not accept. Rereading both reports, they do sound pretty good for Orchard Oriole, and they address quite a few IDs that help eliminate a Hooded Oriole. I guess my point was, in lieu of photos, how well was this bird seen to be completely confident of all the IDs mentioned (taking into consideration the fine margins between immature/female HOOR vs OROR at play)? Revisiting all this, and gauging other committee members opinions, it appears there's enough here to be confident enough to accept.

I appreciate the caution expressed by [other committee member] on this record, as Orchard vs. Hooded can indeed be a difficult and often under-estimated ID challenge. And I confess to worrying a bit that the bird

may not have been seen quite well enough or long enough for optimal study. So I'm trying to weigh that against the apparent confidence of the observers who each are highly experienced and would seem to have adequate experience with the relevant species and would have been aware at the time of the potential pitfalls. That plus the impression of a small bird (Orchard can easily appear 'smaller than an oriole' but Hooded really should not.) It's a tough call in the absence of photo documentation, and I think a vote in either direction would be justified, but I think I'll opt to put trust in the observers' impressions and vote to accept.

While females orioles can be hard to identify and it is troubling that there is no photo, I still vote to confirm this record based on the detailed descriptions. Size is hard to judge with single birds but there were many other birds to compare to in the area including the mentioned GCSPs.

Decent descriptions by two experienced observers, one with extensive experience with this species.