











SCOTT'S ORIOLE (*Icterus parisorum*)

Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, PA / February 24, 2007

This bird was discovered visiting a feeder on Kent Drive in Mechanicsburg for a few days before the general birding community was alerted to its presence. Since this was a first state record of this species, and since I haven't seen one for many years, I took the trip across the state as soon as I could.

Upon arriving at the site, many birders were already present and saw the bird. As I walked up the street to the home where the bird was feeding, the crowd of birders pointed and I saw the bird flying over. Immediately the bright yellow underparts and the black breast were visible.

Fortunately, the bird perched near the top of a spruce tree in the yard across from the home where it was first sighted. It perched in the sun for approximately ten minutes before flying off. During that time I observed the bird through my Leica spotting scope using a variable power lens (20 – 60X) and took a few digital photographs (through the scope) which are included with this description.

I waited for the bird to reappear and later saw it again through my scope and binoculars (Leica Ultravid 10 X 42) in a nearby apple tree. It moved around so I saw it from several angles.

Description:

- The medium size, rather long tail, overall build, long sharp bill, and overall color pattern indicated this was an oriole.
- The head, breast and mantle were jet black.
- The wings were black with a bold yellow shoulder patch, a white wing bar, and white edged tertials.
- The bill was black with a silvery base that extended to about half the lower mandible. Legs and feet were black.
- The breast, sides, belly, undertail coverts and rump were bright lemon yellow.
- The tail was black above with unique black and yellow outer retrices. The yellow extended from the base of the tail just about half way towards the tip with the remaining black. I never had an extended view of the tail from below.

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Scott's Oriole (Icterus parisorum)

Date of Sighting: 19 February 2007 to 8 April 2007

County : CUMBERLAND

Location : MECHANICSBURG

Observer(s): Karen Atwood m.obs

Date of Submission: 2007

Submitted by: C. Rutt, T Johnson, H Eskin, M Weible, M Fialkovich

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

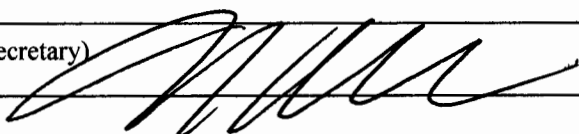
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
L. Stanley B. Walter	X							
E. Witmer	X							
J. Heller	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

12/6/07