

## NOTES

### RECORDS OF THE SCOTT'S ORIOLE FROM WYOMING

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The first sighting of a Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) in Wyoming occurred on 24 June 1967 when O. K. Scott observed an adult male on "Trash Hill," 4 km southeast of Rock Springs, Sweetwater Co. Scott found another adult male in the same location on 1 July 1972. The Scott's Oriole was not seen again in Wyoming until R. Jackman located an adult male and an adult female or immature in Little Firehole Canyon, 13 km southeast of Green River, Sweetwater Co., on 20 May 1980. An adult male was observed in the same location by R. Jackman and D. Johnson the following day.

Several Scott's Orioles were reported from Wyoming during 1982. On 10 June Findholt saw an adult male in Firehole Canyon, 18 km southeast of Green River, Sweetwater Co. Another adult male was discovered by Fitton in Little Firehole Canyon on 26 June, near where the sightings were made in 1980. Two different adult males were observed by Fitton on Powder Rim, approximately 106 km southeast of Rock Springs, Sweetwater Co., on 16 May and 29 June, respectively. Also, on 29 June Fitton located a pair of adults near Anthill Reservoir, approximately 105 km southwest of Rawlins, Sweetwater Co., and 1 km north of Colorado.

At this same location on 26 July 1982 Fitton found and photographed a Scott's Oriole nest containing one addled egg. The adult male was observed near the nest feeding one flightless young. Also, Scott's Oriole call notes were audible nearby, indicating that the female and other young orioles may have been present. The nest has been deposited at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. This is the first nesting record of the Scott's Oriole in Wyoming. The habitat where the nest was located and where all of the Scott's Orioles were observed consisted of Utah Junipers (*Juniperus osteosperma*) interspersed with open areas composed primarily of Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), other shrubs, and grasses.

According to the AOU Check-list (Fifth ed., Am. Ornithol. Union, Baltimore, MD, 1957), the breeding range of the Scott's Oriole includes southern and central western Nevada, southwestern and northeastern Utah, north-central Arizona, north-central New Mexico, and western Texas south through southeastern California to Baja California, Sonora and Coahuila. The closest nesting record to Wyoming is from northeastern Utah, where the Scott's Oriole is considered a rare summer resident (Behle, The birds of northeastern Utah, Utah Mus. Nat. Hist. Occas. Publ. No. 2, Salt Lake City, 1981). Evidence of nesting includes the collection of a female Scott's Oriole, with a well-worn brood patch and three young barely able to fly, from 40 km southeast of Vernal, Dagget Co., Utah on 25 June 1937 (Twomey, Carnegie Mus. Ann. 28:341-490, 1942). More

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recent Scott's Oriole nesting records that are close to southwestern Wyoming include the discovery of an isolated nesting population near Rangely, Moffat Co., in northwestern Colorado (Kingery, *Am. Birds* 34:917, 1980).

The large number of Scott's Oriole sightings in southwestern Wyoming during 1982 are probably the result of more observers being in the area and not a recent range expansion of Scott's Orioles into southwestern Wyoming. This species should be considered a rare summer resident in the state.

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Scott's Oriole

*Sketch by Keith Hansen*