

A Winter Record of Orchard Oriole from Long Island: On 20 November 1966 an Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) was found at Jacob Riis Park, Queens Co., New York. It remained for two weeks, until 11 December, and was seen by dozens of observers. This bird was quite nervous but usually it could be found in one particular clump of bushes where it fed on a variety of berries, including the Russian Olive.

On 11 December 1966 Guy Tudor, Michel Kleinbaum and the writer captured the oriole with a mist-net. Before banding and releasing the bird we took the following description: Back dusky greenish-yellow; under parts bright yellow to undertail coverts; black throat extends 25 mm. below bill, 15 mm. wide, feathers tipped with yellow; indistinct chestnut coloring on cheeks and sides of throat; wings dusky gray with two white wingbars; tail greenish-yellow, dusky posteriorly, narrowly tipped with dull white. Bill dusky above, greenish-flesh below; legs and feet bluish-gray; iris brown. Skull ossified, fat class 3 (it was bloated with fat). Measurements: wing chord—74 mm., tail—70 mm., exposed culmen—15mm. Primary formula: 6 = 7 = 8, 9, 5; outer vanes of primaries 6, 7 and 8 emarginate. A later comparison of this description with specimens at the American Museum of Natural History confirmed its identity as a second year male Orchard Oriole.

John Bull (*Birds of the New York Area*, 1964: 405–406) gives the late date for this species as 22 and 27 September. He remarks: "This species winters in the tropics from southern Mexico to northern South America, without a proved winter occurrence even in Florida; in fact the Orchard Oriole is scarce there by October. No winter records have been substantiated anywhere in the northeast." He dismisses two winter sight records in Rockland Co. as uncorroborated. Late dates from Massachusetts given by Griscom and Snyder (*The Birds of Massachusetts*, 1955: 216) and from Maryland given by Stewart and Robbins (*The Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, 1958: 323) are 28 September, 1918 and 13 October, 1952 respectively.

Audubon Field Notes for the years 1960 to 1966 contain 31 Orchard Oriole records between December and February. Thirteen of these are from California where this species' occurrence has been well corroborated by one specimen and three photographs. The remaining 18 birds were reported from Maryland to Texas including Virginia, Florida, Alabama and Louisiana. Only one of these birds seems well substantiated, a male collected at Reserve, Louisiana on January 3, 1965.

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Baltimore Oriole at Feeder in Watertown: An immature Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) was first seen November 22, 1966 in Watertown feeding on suet. It then tried donut and after feeding for some time flew to the shelter of three spruce trees nearby. Soon it was back at the feeders. For the next 39 days the oriole spent most of its time between the feeders and the evergreens. Raisins, donuts, graham crackers and suet were its favorite foods. It would be one of the first birds to appear in the morning and one of the last to leave at night.

On December 30 just about dusk, after feeding on a donut that had been broken up and placed in a ground feeder, the oriole flew into the evergreens with a piece of donut in its beak. This was the last time it was seen. When it did not appear at feeders the next morning, the evergreens and area in vicinity of the feeders were carefully checked but there was no sign of it.

The oriole had survived 39 days of real winter weather. In this period we had two big storms, one dropping 18 inches of snow, and two periods of sub-zero weather with the temperature getting down to -10° F.

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Ed. Note: Orioles are staying north in ever-increasing numbers. This report, however, is unusually far north.