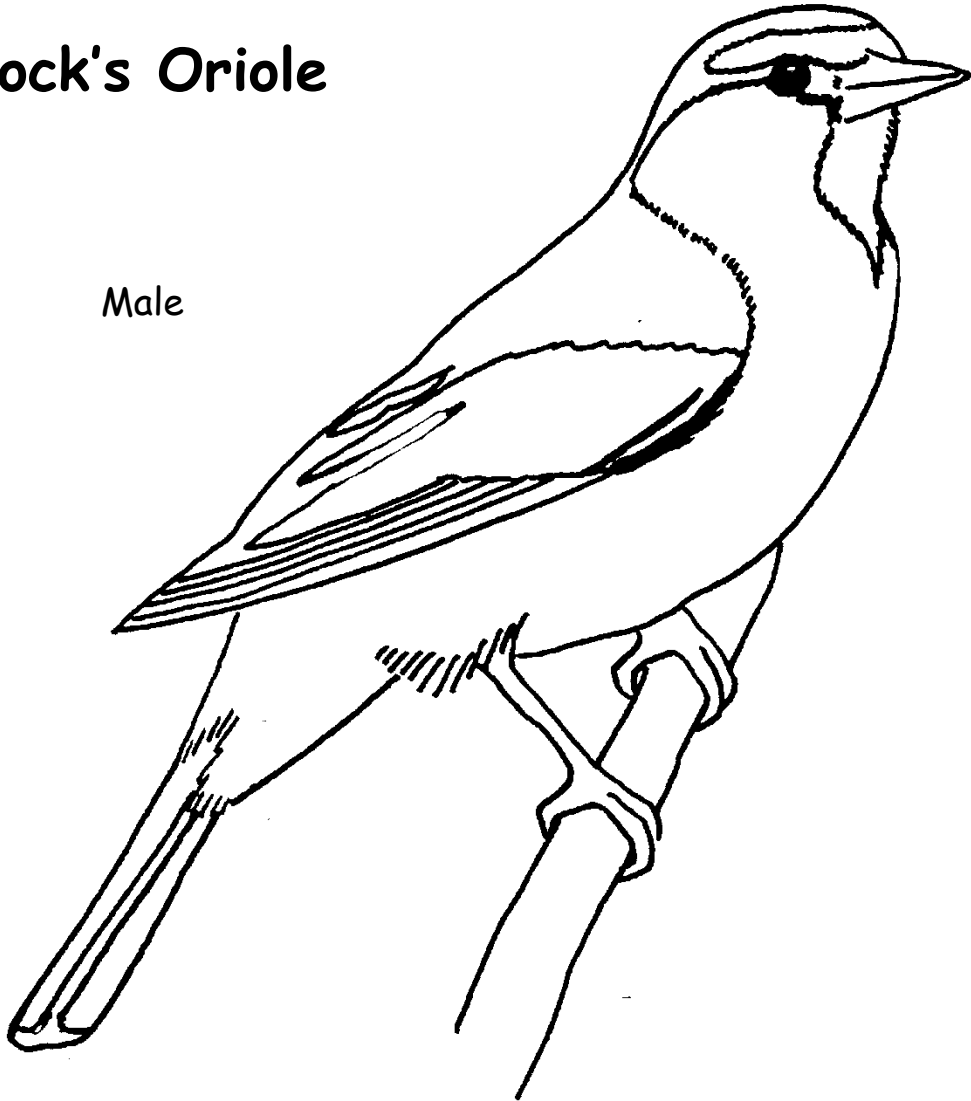

Bullock's Oriole

Male



Coloring instructions:

Dark gray - the bill, legs, and feet

White - the middle section of the wing

Black - the crown, eye line, throat, tip of the tail, inner tail feathers, the shoulder of the wing, and the primary wing feathers

Orange - the forehead, ear patch, breast, belly, sides, thigh, rump, and outer tail feathers

Bullock's Oriole

Length: 7"

Habitat: Nests in riparian areas and woodlands.

Field marks: A brilliant orange and black bird with large white patches on its wings.

When the orioles arrive, you will know it. The males are brilliant orange and black and they sing continuously throughout the nesting season. Both sexes sing. The male does a **song flight** similar to the Red-winged Blackbird. The males will also **countersing**. One male sings. A neighboring male replies, sometimes with almost the same song. The first male sings; the neighbor replies. Back and forth.

The female quickly sets about building a spectacular sack-shaped nest that is hung from the tips of high, droopy branches. A predator would fail trying to get to these nests. Oftentimes she will be seen flying down to the ground to pick up pieces of fiber, grasses, and string to weave into her nest. She also collects feathers, grasses, and the fuzz from willows and dandelions that she lines her nest with. Look for the nest in trees that are on the edge - either of a clearing or along a stream or river.

Though orioles are spectacular, they visit us for only a few months. They are tropical birds, spending most of their lives in Central America or South America. Down there, they feed on insects and flower nectar. They migrate

to the United States only to nest. They arrive in late spring and depart in late summer.

Unfortunately, oriole populations seem to be declining. People in many areas of the United States are reporting fewer orioles and other birds that migrate up from the tropics. This is probably due to the continuing destruction of the tropical rainforests. The rainforest is where orioles spend most of their lives. In the United States, orioles are losing their insect prey through the use of pesticides and they are losing the water in their riparian habitat for use as irrigation.

Bullock's Oriole Challenges

Put a check mark in the box when you have completed the challenge.

- Identify a male Bullock's Oriole. It is orange, black, and white.
- Identify a female Bullock's Oriole. It is yellow-orange and gray-brown.
- See a female picking up nest material.
- See the sack-like nest.
- Hear two males countersinging.
- See a male doing a song flight.
- See the female sing.

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