SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE

SCARCE RECORDS FORM

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| **SPECIES**: | Golden Oriole | | **Age/Sex:** | **male** | |  | For SOS Use: SOSRC/BBRC |
| **Number of Birds:** | | **1** |  | |  | | Record Number: |
|  | | |  | | | | Species Number: |

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| **PLACE:** | Hope Gap, Seaford Head | | 6-Fig. Grid Ref: | |  | |
| **DATE:** | 4th June 2016 | | Dates of Earlier/Later Sightings: | | | None |
| **Times:** |  | 06.40-10.15 | Total Duration: |  | | Heard for a few hours |

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| **OBSERVER** (Block Capitals):  (Please include full initials) | | | **Matthew Robert Eade (M.R.Eade)** | Telephone Number: | **07876125119** |
| **Postal Address:** | | **36 Southdown Avenue, Peacehaven, East Sussex** | | Post Code: | **BN10 8RX** |
| **E-mail Address:** |  | **Matt.eade@yahoo.co.uk** | |  |  |

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| **Other Observers:** | **Ron Knight, Marc Read, RC Self.** | **Who 1st identified it?** | **M.R.Eade** |
| **Who Found it?** | **M.R.Eade** | **Is anyone else reporting it?** | **No** |

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| **Was it photographed?** | **No, but was recorded several times by MRE** | **Photographer(s):** |  |
| **Was it trapped for Ringing?** |  | **Ringer(s):** |  |
| **If dead, is it preserved?** |  | **Where?** |  |

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| Optics Used: Binoculars Used: | Swarovski 10x32EL | | Telescope Used: |  |
| Distance from bird: | | **30m – 100m (in flight only)**  **When seen in flight, bird sometimes silhouetted.** | Weather Conditions: | Murky but still and muggy. Felt very rare!! |
| Light in relation to observer: | |

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| Previous experience of species: | Seen several in UK including 1 in Sussex. A few weeks previous I saw a minimum of five in South France. Seen small flocks in Lesvos, South France on migration. |

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| Experience of similar species; that day: | None, unless people still include Green Woodpecker as similar. | Previously: | **Seen seven species of Oriole globally.** |

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| Do you wished to be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance? | By e-mail | Yes (Please Delete) |
| (Record decisions can be checked online at the SOS website) | By Post (if paper record) | No (Please Delete) |

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| Is this record 100% certain? | Yes | Any who disagree? | No |
| Signature: | M.Eade | Date Submitted: | 5th June 2016 |

**Please return your completed form to the Recorder, Mark Mallalieu via e-mail to** [recorder@sos.org.uk](mailto:recorder@sos.org.uk)

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| SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE – SCARCE RECORDS FORM |
| **DESCRIPTION**: Include an account of the relevant circumstances of the observation and a detailed description of the bird based on notes taken at the time of the observation and before reference to books. Attach original field notes, sketches and photographs, if available. The description should cover as many of the following features as possible: size, type, general coloration, habitat, behaviour; bill, eye, eye ring & stripe(s), lores, forehead, crown, nape, mantle, rump, tail; chin, throat, breast, belly, undertail coverts; tertials, primaries, primary extension and overlap with tail, secondaries, coverts and wing bars; legs, stance, gait; flight and calls. Attach extra sheets as necessary.  , prima |

See attached recordings of the singing Golden Oriole, that also includes the visual aspect of Hope Gap.

Upon entering Hope Gap I heard the unmistakable song of a Golden Oriole at 6.40am. **(A)** The song was the typical melodic and fluty song one would expect from this species. This bird was the most vocal Golden Oriole I’ve heard. For just over three hours the bird was continuously singing, at times in a bush no more than ten metres away from me. The sound was just truly amazing. **(B)** I quickly recorded the bird as I assumed seeing the Oriole would be a task in itself.

Unfortunately, despite getting so close to the bird, I only saw it four times in flight. **(C)** The size was roughly Blackbird size. **(D)** Flight was undulating with very flappy wingbeats and when descending angled into cover. The **(E)** bright yellow mantle was immediately obvious, and on one view the black in the wings were visible, but in all honesty the light wasn’t ideal when the Oriole went above the ‘horizon’, as it was silhouetted. However, the flight pattern, shape and structure of the bird is in my opinion very obvious.

The typical habits of the bird were very Golden Oriole like. It was extremely secretive, sang in deep cover and moved around un-noticed.

By late morning the bird became more mobile and less vocal. It was not seen/heard after 10.15am, and the same can be said for the next day.

Very little else can be added other than it was seen by a further four observers. A very welcome find after a dire spring for scarce passerine migrants.

The song is described at **(A)**. **(B)** A recording was made, which is of great value to the SOS Records Committee and can be done using a Smart Phone. **(C)** Size clearly indicated.  **(D)** Manner of flight described. **(E)** Colouration described to extent that the brief views allowed.

This is a good example of a short description, reflecting the brief views obtained by the observer, but one that is nevertheless convincing, with the sound recording being a useful addition to the other evidence.