

15080 Eurasian Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Male (24-VI).

EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE (*Oriolus oriolus*)

IDENTIFICATION

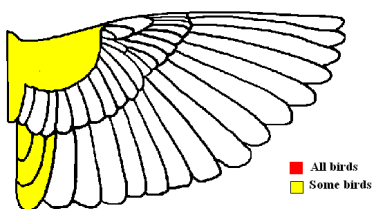
22-25 cm. **Male** with deep yellow body and black wings and tail. **Female** and **juveniles** quite similar, with green olive upperparts and greyish underparts with diffuse streaked; wing and tail brownish; in **adults** bill and eye reddish.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

MOULT

Very variable partial **postbreeding** moult, involving generally body feathers, some inner wing coverts and may also include some inner secondaries and tertials; usually finished in September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including body feathers, lesser coverts, some inner median and greater coverts and sometimes tertials. Both age classes have a complete **pre-breeding** moult in their wintering quarters, sometimes retaining some unmoulted secondaries or tail feathers.



Golden Oriole. Extent of postjuvenile moult.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

■ Summer visitor ■ Resident
■ Wintering ■ On passage

AGEING AND SEXING

4 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenil and **1st year** with fresh plumage; upperpart and wing coverts brown-olive with yellow edges; underparts distinctly streaked; loreal stripe dull grey; bill dark brown; iris dark brown; central tail feathers with pointed tips. **Juveniles** and **1st year** birds cannot be sexed using plumage pattern.

2nd year males and **females** have **juvenile-like** plumage with underparts always streaked; central tail feathers with rounded tips; iris reddish. **Males** usually with primary coverts with pale tip about 1-10 mm; outermost tail feather with yellow patch on tip about 24-35 mm; malar stripe yellow. **Females** with primary coverts with pale tips about 1-5 mm; outermost tail feather with yellow patch on tip about 17-28 mm; malar stripe pale (**CAUTION:** intermediate birds are very common).

Adult female with dark grey loreal stripe; usually with greyish-white underparts sparsely streaked and pale malar stripe; more rarely some **females** with **male-like** pattern with yellowish underparts only diffusely streaked and yellowish malar stripe; differs from **2nd year males** by their pale loreal stripe (except **male-like** ones); upperparts with greenish tinge; **adult females** are different from **2nd year females** by their primary coverts with larger white-yellowish patch on tips (5-10 mm) and more diffuse streaked on underparts.

Adult male unmistakable with body feathers deep yellow; unstreaked underparts; loreal stripe black; central tail feathers black till the base or almost; wing feathers black; outermost tail feather with large yellow patch on tip (26-38 mm); black primary coverts with large yellow patches on tips (7-16 mm).



Golden Oriole. Ageing and sexing. Adult. Pattern of head: top male; middle female; bottom male-like female.

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Golden Oriole. Ageing and sexing. Pattern of head: top 2nd year male; middle 2nd year female; bottom 1st year.



Golden Oriole. Ageing and sexing. Adult. Pattern of wing coverts: top male; middle female; bottom male-like female.



Golden Oriole. Ageing and sexing. Adult. Pattern of primary coverts: top male; bottom female.



Golden Oriole. Ageing and sexing. Pattern of wing coverts: top 2nd year male; middle 2nd year female; bottom 1st year.



Golden Oriole. Ageing and sexing. Pattern of primary coverts: top 2nd year male; middle 2nd year female; bottom 1st year.

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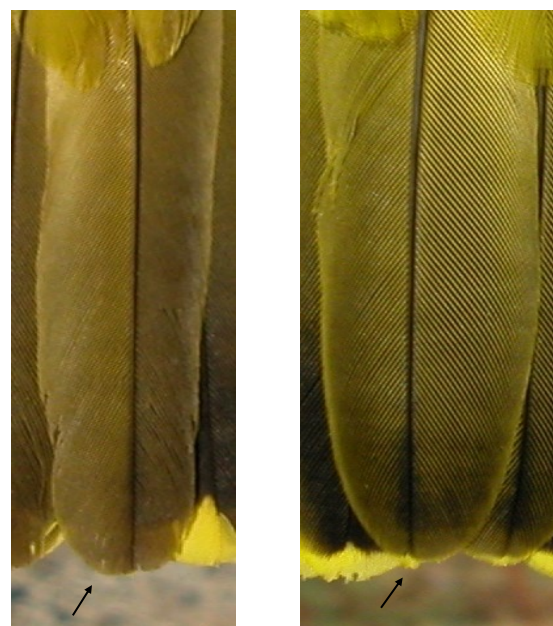
Golden Oriole. Ageing and sexing. Adult. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left male; right female.



Golden Oriole. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left 2nd year; right 1st year.



Golden Oriole. Ageing. Pattern of breast: top adult female; middle 2nd year; bottom 1st year.



Golden Oriole. Ageing. Pattern of the tip of the central tail feather: left adult/2nd year; right juvenile/1st year.

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Golden Oriole. Adult. Female (30-VI).



Golden Oriole. 1st year (27-VIII).



Golden Oriole. Adult. Female with male-like plumage (24-VI).



Golden Oriole. Juvenile (22-VII).



Golden Oriole. Male. 2nd year (19-V).



Golden Oriole. Adult Head pattern: top male (24-VI); middle female (30-VI); bottom female with male-like plumage (24-VI).



Golden Oriole. Female. 2nd year (22-VI).

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Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (19-V); bottom female (22-VI)



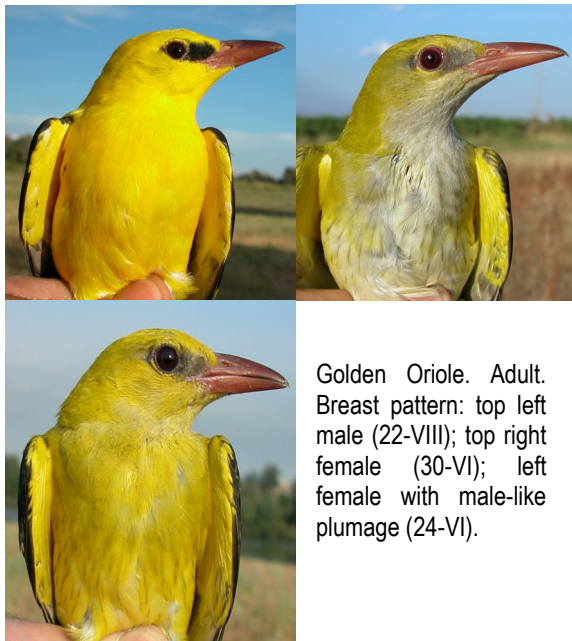
Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (19-V); right female (22-VI)



Golden Oriole. Head pattern: top 1st year (27-VIII); bottom juvenile (22-VII).



Golden Oriole. Breast pattern: left 1st year (27-VIII); right juvenile (22-VII).



Golden Oriole. Adult. Breast pattern: top left male (22-VIII); top right female (30-VI); left female with male-like plumage (24-VI).



Golden Oriole. Adult. Upperpart pattern: top left male (22-VIII); top right female (30-VI); left female with male-like plumage (24-VI).

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Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (19-V); right female (22-VI)



Golden Oriole. Upperpart pattern: left 1st year (27-VIII); right juvenile (22-VII).



Golden Oriole. Adult. Pattern of tail and its outermost feather: top left male (22-VIII); top right female (30-VI); left female with male-like plumage (24-VI).



Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Pattern of tail and its outermost feather: top left male with all feathers moulted (26-VI); top right male with two feathers retained (19-V); left female (22-VI)

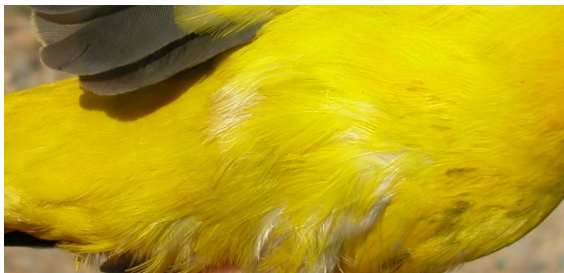
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Golden Oriole. Pattern of tail and its outermost feather: left 1st year (27-VIII); right juvenile (22-VII).



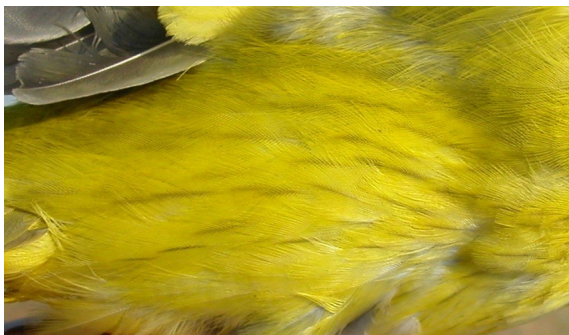
Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Male: pattern of flank (19-V)



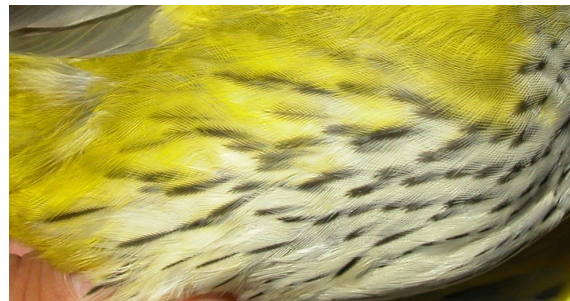
Golden Oriole. Adult. Male: pattern of flank (24-VI)



Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Female: pattern of flank (22-VI)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Female with male-like plumage: pattern of flank (24-VI)



Golden Oriole. 1st year: pattern of flank (27-VIII)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Female: pattern of flank (30-VI)



Golden Oriole. Juvenile: pattern of flank (22-VII)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Male: pattern of primary coverts (24-VI)



Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primary coverts (19-V)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Female with male-like plumage: pattern of primary coverts (24-VI)



Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Female: pattern of primary coverts (22-VI)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Female: pattern of primary coverts (30-VI)



Golden Oriole. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (27-VIII)



Golden Oriole. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (22-VII)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries with all feathers moulted (24-VI)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries with all feathers moulted (24-VI)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries with a retained feather (30-VI)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries with two retained feathers (17-VI)



Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries with all feathers moulted (19-V)

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Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries with a retained greater covert (26-VI)



Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries with all feathers moulted (22-VI)



Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries with a retained feather (30-VI)



Golden Oriole. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (27-VIII)



Golden Oriole. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (22-VII).



Golden Oriole. Adult. Male: pattern of wing with all feathers moulted (24-VI)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Male: pattern of wing with two retained feathers (17-VI)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Female: pattern of wing with all feathers moulted (24-VI)



Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing with all feathers moulted (22-VI)



Golden Oriole. Adult. Female: pattern of wing with one secondary retained (30-VI)



Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing with a retained secondary (30-VI)



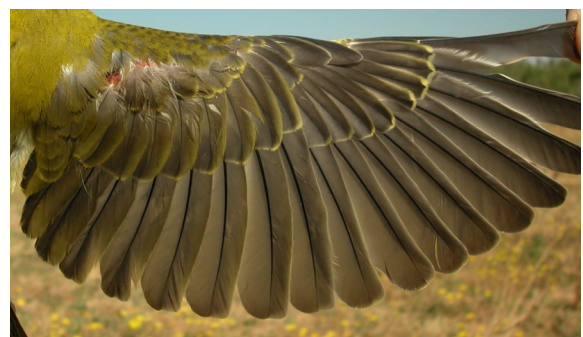
Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing with all feathers moulted (19-V)



Golden Oriole. 1st year: pattern of wing (27-VIII)



Golden Oriole. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing with a retained greater covert (26-VI)



Golden Oriole. Juvenile: pattern of wing (22-VII).