

Streak-backed Oriole *Icterus pustulatus*

The Streak-backed Oriole is a primarily Mexican species that is spreading gradually north, first confirmed nesting in Arizona in 1993 (Corman and Monson 1995). The California Bird Records Committee has accepted six records of vagrants to California, three for San Diego County.

Migration: Huey (1931a) collected the first Streak-backed Oriole known in the United States, at the Lake Murray dam (Q11) 1 May 1931 (SDNHM 14521). McCaskie saw one in the Tijuana River valley 22 September 1962 (McCaskie and Banks 1964). The records committee rejected two other sightings there in 1962 and 1963 (Roberson 1993).

Winter: The county's one wintering Streak-backed Oriole was in a residential area of Pacific Beach (Q7; slightly south of La Jolla as originally reported) 10 December 1984–29 April 1985 (Dunn 1988). The identification is supported by photographs.

Conservation: The specter of escapees hangs over sightings of the Streak-backed Oriole as for many other Mexican species. Hamilton (2001) did not report the Streak-backed Oriole among the many cage birds he saw in shops in northern Baja California, but I saw one for sale on the streets of Tijuana in the mid 1980s.

Taxonomy: The specimen is the expected subspecies of northwestern Mexico, *I. p. microstictus* Griscom, 1934.