

# Hooded Oriole

*Icterus cucullatus*

Named for the yellow hood on the male, this slender oriole is at home in suburban areas of the southwestern United States. It originally nested in the trees of desert oases, but finds ornamental trees suitable.

## Keys to Identification

### Adult Description

- Medium-sized oriole.
- Slender body.
- Long tail.
- Long, slightly decurved bill.
- Male bright yellow with black bib, female drab yellow.

### Male Description

Entirely yellow or yellow-orange head, nape, rump, and underparts. Black bib and narrow mask. Back black, with pale edges in fresh plumages. Wings black with two white wingbars, the upper one wide and bold, the lower one narrow. Tail black.

### Female Description

Olive yellow on head, rump, and tail. Underparts dull, but brighter yellow. Back dull grayish olive. Two white wingbars, top one broader than lower. Wings dusky.

### Immature Description

Immature male resembles adult female, but with a black bib and mask less extensive than adult male. Head, nape, tail, and underparts yellow. Wings dusky gray with two white wingbars. Black bib. Immature female resembles adult female.

## Cool Facts

When the nest is suspended from palm leaves, the female pokes holes in the leaf from below and pushes the fibers through, effectively sewing the nest to the leaf.

## Measurements

### Both Sexes

- Length - 7.1 - 7.9 inches
- Weight - 0.8 ounces

