

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

14. *Bullock's Oriole*



Photograph by Adrian Dignan
Woodmere, Nassau Co., 26 February 1966

A non-extant specimen of the Bullock's Oriole, *Icterus bullockii*, reported taken on 17 May 1875, in Onondaga Co., formed the basis for the inclusion of this form on the New York hypothetical list [Eaton, *Birds of New York*, Univ. State of New York, vol. 2, 1914: 242].

Between the years 1947 and 1964 there appeared at least five published reports of this species from New York:

1. Two adults seen on 20 May 1947 at Jamestown, Chautauqua Co., by Philip Lenna and Alan Van Why. This record was placed on the hypothetical list by Beardslee and Mitchell in their *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* [Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Hist., 22: 406, 1965].
2. A female reported seen at Short Beach, Nassau Co., 14 September 1949, by Richard Ryan and William Solomon [*Linn. News-letter*, vol. 3, no. 6, 1949].
3. An immature male with the black throat seen on the Montauk Christmas Count near the village of Montauk, Suffolk Co., 27 December 1958, by Ned Boyajian, Neal Smith, and Joseph Horowitz [*Aud. Field Notes*, 13(2): 98, April 1959; Boyajian, personal communication].

4. A female present for about three months during the winter of 1958-59, at the feeding station of Mrs. Herbert Jacoby and other feeding stations in the neighborhood of Mt. Kisco, Westchester Co. [*Kingbird*, 9(1): 50, May 1959; Jacoby, personal communication].
5. An immature male seen on 23 May 1959 at Holland Patent, Oneida Co., by Freeland [*Kingbird*, 9(2): 92, July 1959].

The Bullock's Oriole was officially removed from the New York hypothetical list when an immature male was captured, measured, and photographed, by LeRoy Wilcox on 20 December 1963 at Allan Robinson's feeder, Eastport, Suffolk Co. [*EBBA News*, 27(2): 58, 1964; Bull, *Birds of the New York City Area*, Harper & Row, N.Y., 1964. 481-482]. This bird, present from 12 December 1963 to mid-March 1964, was seen by dozens of observers. A photograph of it appears in the issue of *EBBA News* cited above.

Three winters later another Bullock's Oriole, this time an adult male, was discovered at Samuel I. Steinberg's feeder, Woodmere, Nassau Co. This bird, also seen by numerous observers, was present from 23 January to 2 April 1966 [*Kingbird*, 16(2): 126, May 1966; *Kingbird*, 16(3): 187, July 1966; *Aud Field Notes*, 20(3): 405, June 1966].

The Bullock's Oriole breeds east to the Great Plains where it meets the Baltimore Oriole, *I. galbula*. The two forms may be conspecific, forming an extensive zone of hybridization over a 150-200 mile wide area from Saskatchewan to central Texas [Sibley & Short, *Condor*, 66(2): 130-150, 1964]. At my request Dr. Short kindly examined the original color slides of the Woodmere bird and concluded that it "shows no evidence of hybridization with *I. glabula*."

Robert Tyson kindly made the black and white print reproduced here.

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ADDENDUM: To "Photographs of New York State Rarities, 12. Lark Bunting", *Kingbird* 18(1): 3—one in female or winter plumage at Westhampton Beach 17 October 1965 by Gilbert Raynor *Kingbird* 16(1): 64, January 1966 and *Aud. Field Notes* 20(1): 22, February 1966.