



12/26/96

879A-01 -1996

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE

-Arthur Fork

About 11 a.m., November 12, 1996, a female oriole flew in and began feeding on a suet cake attached to a snag in the yard. I immediately grabbed my binoculars and saw that it appeared to be a Bullock's oriole, a species which has visited my yard twice before but which I had never been able to get anyone else to verify for me.

I was immediately struck by its large white belly and the yellow, not orange, coloration of the undertail and breast. Its back was gray, the top of its head was light yellowish-gray, and it appeared to have a light yellow stripe above its eye. Two whitish wing bars were visible on its wings.

The oriole lingered at the suet for a short time, flew over to a nearby apple tree where it pecked at a shriveled apple, and flew off in a southerly direction. I looked for the bird in vain the rest of the day and had mostly given up hope that I would ever see it again.

However, the next morning, while Jason Horn and I were waiting for a third party to join us on a day trip down to Cape May, he said he thought he heard the chattering of an oriole. Thinking he was kidding, I didn't look up until he yelled, "There's the oriole." Once again it was in the apple tree, this time checking out the orange oriole feeder I had quickly put out even though I knew the sugar water, orange half, and grape jelly would freeze.

Fortunately Jason was able to get a few pictures of the oriole when it flew up into the top of a poplar tree, although it's very difficult to confirm the bird's exact identity from them. However, both Jason and I have seen other Bullock's orioles and he also said that this bird had an even bigger whiter belly patch than was present on the female Bullock's that was in Chester last Winter.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)

Date of Sighting: 12 November 1996 to 13 November 1996

Location: WILLIAMS TWP

County: NORTHAMPTON

Observer(s): Arlene Koch; Jason Horn

Date of Submission: 1996

Submitted by: Arlene Koch; Jason Horn

Written Description: YES

Photo: YES

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas								X
N. Pulcinella						X		
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe				X				
S. Feldstein						X		
TOTALS			3	1		2		1
DECISION				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

L C Haas

Date:

8-16-97