

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE  
613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380

12 March 2003

Gayle Lawrence  
P.O Box 392  
Bainbridge, PA 17502

Dear Gayle,

Thank you for submitting documentation of the oriole that you photographed in January 1997 at Bainbridge. After careful review, the Committee has voted not to accept this record.

One member voted to accept it as a Bullock's Oriole, but the other six members believed that this was much more likely a Baltimore Oriole. Various features pointed to Baltimore: its overall appearance of relatively strong rather than pale coloration, its lack of a "smeared effect" of whitish color between the two wingbars; its relatively dusky rather than pale head with no sign of a prominent dark line between the eye and bill; and its orangish rear flanks and undertail coverts, which are too richly colored for a Bullock's.

Distinguishing between female and first-winter Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles during the winter is very difficult -- harder than even many experts realized in the past. The critical identification differences have been adequately established only in recent years. If you have access to *Birding* magazine, the best article available on this subject is "Identification of Female and Immature Bullock's and Baltimore Orioles" by Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch, published in the August 1998 issue (pages 282-295).

We apologize for the long time it took us to vote on the record, and we hope that our non-acceptance in this case will not discourage you from submitting reports on any future rarities you find.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:  
Paul Hess, Chair

Record No. 874a-01-1997



Bullock's Oriole

874\* - 01 - 1997

Bainbridge, Lancaster Co, Pa

Gayle Lawrence

874~~A~~01-1997

February 17, 2001

Dear Mr. and Mrs Haas:

At a meeting of the Lancaster County Bird Club, I heard about a Bullock's Oriole that was seen in Mount Joy last year. From the conversation, I got the impression that efforts were being made to document the presence of this species here in Lancaster County, and maybe even statewide. If this is true, you may be interested in the following information.

We had two female Bullock's Orioles in our yard in Bainbridge during the winter of 1997. We first saw them on January 27th, then observed one or both on a daily basis through February 1st. The novelty having worn off, I stopped keeping track of daily sightings. The last notation in my journal concerning them was on February 16th: "Bullock's Oriole still here!" The birds were seen feeding on commercial suet mix and on homemade "gorp", and often came to drink from the birdbath.

The species was new to me, but I didn't know if it was commonly seen in our area. I sent notice of our sighting to Jerry Book, who was the compiler of the "Birds on the Move" feature for the LCBC newsletter, and he included the information in his next report.

I have several photographs of the birds. All were taken through a window (and a storm window), and aren't as clear as I would have liked them to be. But I think the bird is still identifiable, so I have enclosed one for you to examine.

I hope this information is useful to you. If you have questions or comments, call 717-426-3024, any day or time. The answering machine is always on duty.

Sincerely,

Gzyl Lawrence

PS - If you could return the photo, it would be greatly appreciated.  
I hate to admit it, but this is probably the best one in the bunch!

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Tabulation Form - Round One**

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

Date of Sighting: 27 January 1997 to 16 February 1997

Location: BAINBRIDGE

County: LANCASTER

Observer(s): Gayle Lawrence

Date of Submission: 2000

Submitted by: Gayle Lawrence

Written Description: No


Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead					X			
D. Couchman	X							
P. Hess						X		
J. Stanley						X		
B. Reid						X		
<del>B. Leberman</del> <del>P. Rodewald</del>						X		
M. Sharp					X			
TOTALS	1				2	4		
DECISION								

Comments: 1/6

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 11/4/01