

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/20/00

Bullock's Oriole

3 Sep 1995

Red Rock Res., Marion Co., IA

*Stephen J. Dinsmore

IBL 66:25,97; Dinsmore and Sinclair 1996

Record Number: 95-59

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames 50014 [*3/24/96]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:25

Records Committee: IBL 66:97

Dinsmore, S. J., and J. Sinclair. 1996. Bullock's Oriole at Red Rock Reservoir. IBL 66:137.

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Classic face pattern and wing bar of a male.

A-D, Also adequate description.

Lazuli Bunting: A male was seen along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. on 1 and 2 Jun (*LAS, *JLF).
Dickcissel: Several commented that Dickcissels were common (DLD, BE) or abundant (JV) this summer while Kenne suggested that although they were common on good habitat, less of that habitat was available this year.

Lark Sparrow: One or 2 were found in Fremont, Johnson, and Linn counties.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Engebreetsen said it was common in Polk County and noted that it was found in grassy areas along new suburban housing developments.

Henslow's Sparrow: Besides the usual birds at L. Sugema A. in Van Buren Co., small populations were found in similar habitat in Lee and Davis counties (PMe). Also, from 17 Jun to 14 Jul, at least 7 males were singing at Pleasant Creek Rec. A. (DLD, DHo), a new site for the species.

White-throated Sparrow: One at Kettleon Hogsback A. on 3 Jun (ETH) was the only report.

White-crowned Sparrow: One in Cedar Rapids on 23 Jun (*RBr) was the first summer report [record latest].

Bobolink: Both Van Dyk in Sioux Co. and Petersen in eastern Iowa suggested numbers were down.

Eastern Meadowlark: One at Missouri Valley in Harrison Co. on 4 Jul (RRe) was west of its usual range.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: An active colony at a restored wetland at Harrier M. in Boone Co. (HZ) indicates the ability of this species to colonize such sites.

Great-tailed Grackle: From 1 to 12 were found in Boone, Carroll, Clay, Fremont, Greene, Hamilton, Polk, Sac, and Wayne counties. Nearly all were associated with a wetland.

Brown-headed Cowbird: See accounts for Wood Thrush and Blue-winged Warbler.

Orchard Oriole: From 1 to 6 were found in Allamakee, Cass (nest, MAP), Dickinson, Emmet, Fremont, Harrison, Jasper, Johnson, Lee, Linn, Lyon, Mills, Monona, O'Brien, Plymouth, Sioux, Winneshiek (fledged young, DeC), and Woodbury counties.

Red Crossbill: Starting with 10 adults and juveniles at Iowa City on 13 Jul (THK*, see cover photo), there was an unprecedented summertime invasion of this species. Up to 20 were at Postville in Allamakee Co. from 16-21 Jul (Gloria Looney fide DeC), 12 were in Algona from 19 to 29 Jul (MCK), from 2 to 6 were near Sutherland in O'Brien Co. from 20 to 25 Jul (Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Amendt fide DK), 15 were at Spencer from 20 to 24 Jul (L. Becker fide LAS) and 2 females/juveniles were in Ames on 24 Jul (Steve Maloy, JJD). These were the first summer reports of this nomadic species in Iowa since 1991.

Pine Siskin: All: Two at E. Okoboji on 2 Jun and 1 there until 12 Jul (ETH), 2 in Ames from 10-14 Jun (PM), and 3 in Des Moines on 3 Jun and 1 there until 21 Jun (BE) all may have been nesting although no evidence was presented. One was at a feeder in St. Olaf in Clayton Co. on 21 Jul (LSt).

CONTRIBUTORS

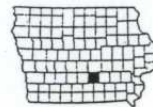
Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Neil Bernstein (NBe), Cedar Rapids; Rob Bradley (RBr), Cedar Rapids; Aaron Brees (ABr), Corydon; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Andy Clement (AC), St. Louis, MO; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bruce Ehresman (BEh), Ames; Bery Engebreetsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Denise Friedrich (DF), Ames; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Patricia Giles (PG), Daryl Howell (DHo), Indianola; Bill F. Huser (BFH), Sioux City; Tom N. Johnson (TNJ), Mystic; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Darwin Koenig (DK), Paullina; Paul Martsching (PM), Ames; Pete Melde (PMe), Marshalltown; Ron Munkel (RMu), Boone; William Norris (WN), Ames; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Russ Reisz (RRe), Missouri Valley; Pat Schlarbaum (PSc), Ames; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Bill Schuster (BSc), Huxley; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Larry Stone (LSt), St. Olaf; Ed Thelen (ETH), Spirit Lake; Phil J. Walsh (PJW), Des Moines; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Hank Zaletel (HZ), Nevada.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE AND JIM SINCLAIR

On 3 September 1995, while birding the large point area on the west side of Whitebreast Bay on the south side of Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County, we saw an adult male Bullock's Oriole. We found the bird 50 feet up in the top of a tree at about 8:35 a.m. and watched it for less than a minute.



The bird then flew a short distance, and we were unable to relocate it. Although the observation was brief, the bird was seen well and under good viewing conditions. Several Baltimore Orioles in the same general area allowed for comparisons. The bird had the typical black and orange color pattern of an oriole. The throat was solid black, extending downward to the breast in a broad bib. The face was bright orange with a narrow black line through the eye and a black crown. The mantle and wings were also black except for a large, white patch on the secondary coverts. The remainder of the underparts and rump were orange. The tail was not seen well but appeared dark from our angle. These features are those of an adult male Bullock's Oriole. We also considered the possibility of a Baltimore X Bullock's Oriole hybrid. Such birds usually have a less distinct white wing patch (sometimes irregularly marked with black) and a more muted face pattern that lacks a dark line through the eye.

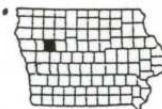
Recently, the American Ornithologists' Union split the Northern Oriole into two species: Baltimore Oriole and Bullock's Oriole. Baltimore Oriole is a common migrant and summer resident throughout Iowa. The only record of a Bullock's Oriole in Iowa is one at Clemons in Marshall County on 12 May 1993 (*Iowa Bird Life* 63:80).

4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014 and 810 North B St., Indianola, IA 50125

LONG-BILLED CURLEW IN SAC COUNTY

PETER ERNZEN

On the evening of 22 May 1995, my son Joshua and I were bird watching at the settling pond on the southeastern corner of Black Hawk Lake in Sac County. On the mudflat in front of us we could see several hundred gulls and terns. As we approached them, an alarm call was sounded and suddenly these birds and a smaller number of shorebirds were in the air.



As the birds circled us, several large shorebirds fell into line and were identified as Marbled Godwits. A large bird approached and attempted to fall in line with the godwits. Although the bird looked similar to the godwits in that it was tannish brown in color and possessed cinnamon wing linings, its large body size, 15 to 20 percent larger than the godwits, and long decurved bill that looked to be at least twice as large as that of the godwit, identified this bird as a curlew. The birds flew in formation for a few minutes before flying directly overhead and disappearing to the north.

After returning to my car I wrote down my observations and began the process of identification. Bristle-thighed Curlew and Whimbrel were eliminated by body size, bill length, and coloration. The Far Eastern Curlew possesses a long decurved bill,

95-59

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Bullock's Oriole
Number: 1 male
Location: Red Rock Res., Marion Co.
Habitat: forest along lake
Date: 3 September 1995
Time: 8:35-8:36 a.m.
Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014
Others who saw bird: Jim Sinclair

Description of bird(s): We were birding on the large point on the south side of the reservoir on the west side of Whitebreast Bay when I spotted a striking oriole perched in a treetop. Several "Baltimore" Orioles were in the same general area. The observation was very brief, but I got an excellent look at the head and body of the bird. The tail was not seen well and appeared dark from my angle. Jim Sinclair had a very brief glimpse of the bird before it flew. The bird had the typical black and orange color pattern of an oriole. The throat was solid black, extending downward to the breast in a broad bib. The face was bright orange with a narrow black line through the eye and a black crown. The mantle and wings were also black except for a large, white patch on the secondary coverts. The remainder of the underparts and rump were orange. These features are those of an adult male Bullock's Oriole.

At the time of the observation, I was fairly certain the bird was a Bullock's and not an intergrade. This was because I had just spent the summer in Montana where Bullock's Orioles were fairly common. From the information I have available, intergrades usually have a less distinct white wing patch (sometimes irregularly marked with black) and a more muted face pattern that lacks a dark line through the eye.

Similar species and how eliminated: See above. Baltimore Oriole has a solid black hood and dark wings.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were good with sun behind us and the bird above us at a 45 degree angle. Estimated viewing distance was 50-60'. I used 10x42 binoculars.

Previous experience with species: Very familiar with both the Baltimore and Bullock's forms (now species) of Northern Oriole.

References consulted: NGS Field Guide to the Birds of North America

How long before field notes made: none written
How long before this form completed: written 3 September 1995