

BANDING BULLOCK'S ORIOLE ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

By LeRoy Wilcox

A Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) appeared at a feeding station at Eastport, L. I., on December 12, 1963, feeding mainly on suet and later on grapes. This feeding station is maintained by my brother-in-law, Allan Robinson, who has allowed me to band some of the birds there at various times. A Summer Tanager, a rather rare bird on L. I., was banded there on April 28, 1961, and 141 Redpolls were banded in 2 days in March, 1960.



As I had already banded over 200 species I was anxious to add one more to the list. We were eager to add this rare species to our annual Central Suffolk Audubon Christmas census, so I delayed trapping the Oriole until December 20, on which date it was trapped, banded and photographed. The bird did not mind the handling, as it was back eating suet in 5 minutes after it was banded and released. The wing measured 96 mm. and the tail 74. It was still present when this was written (March 4, 1964) and was apparently an immature male with black throat.

There has been an increase in observations of this species in recent years in the Northeast. See Auk of January, 1964, where 4 specimens were reported taken in Massachusetts in 1957, 1960 and about 9 others seen in 1949, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1958 and 1959. J. L. Peters wrote: "the black throat is occasionally found in females." But George M. Sutton believes that no true female is ever black-throated. Apparently more research is needed on plumages of this bird. A Baltimore Oriole was also present with the Bullock's at Eastport in January and February. The most noticeable difference between the two species was the white belly and greater amount of white in the wing of the Bullock's. This is the first definite record of the Bullock's Oriole for the New York City region and Long Island.

Brushy Neck Lane, Speonk, Long Island, New York