

ornithologist at Georgia College and State University. I think he was as excited as I about the find. He suggested that I report the find on the U.S. Geological Survey website. The site was easy to navigate and took only a few minutes to complete.

A few weeks later I received a letter from the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. I honestly had no idea what the letter contained as I opened it. Much to my surprise it was a Certificate of Appreciation for turning in the bird band information. Upon reading the certificate, I really got excited. “My” bird was an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) (which actually is my favorite). It had been banded by GOS member Dr. Joe Meyers near Hollywood, Alabama, in June 1988. “My” bird hatched 17 years earlier approximately 402 km (250 miles) away from its final resting place.

I display my certificate proudly in my office. As a research scientist, I am generally focused only on my own projects. It is exciting to know that I have participated in a long running study of such a magnificent species. If you have found a bird band and have yet to report it, I encourage you to do so. You may be surprised to find out whose research you are contributing to and where “your” bird has been.

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A BULLOCK’S ORIOLE AND A RECORD NUMBER OF BALTIMORE ORIOLES IN WINTER 2005-2006, IN BULLOCH COUNTY, GA – On the afternoon of 27 December 2005, while conducting my annual winter survey of Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) in different pecan orchards in Bulloch County, Georgia, I observed an immature male Bullock’s Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*). I was able to photograph the bird from about 8 m (25 ft), and the photograph confirmed my visual identification, via 10 x 40 binoculars, of the Bullock’s Oriole (Figure 1). The presence of a black bib on the orange throat, the black lores, the black spot on the culmen, the overall orange body coloring, and the deep, dark teeth in the upper wingbar substantiate the identification of the bird as an immature male. Apparently, this report represents the second photographed Bullock’s

Oriole in Georgia. An adult male was seen a week earlier in Smyrna (Cobb County) on 20-21 December, where it was photographed by Georgann Schmalz, Giff Beaton, Pierre Howard, and Earl Horn.

In addition to the sighting of the Bullock's Oriole, there was a record number of Baltimore Orioles sighted in Bulloch County this winter. An astounding total of 55 Baltimore Orioles was observed on eight days between 26 December 2005 and 3 January 2006; this exceeds the highest previous count of 32 Baltimore Orioles in Winter 2001 (Parrish, J. W., Jr., 2002, Oriole 67:52-53). In Winter 2001, nearly one-half of the Baltimore Orioles were adult males; in this winter's sighting, only about one-third were adult males. The exceptionally high number of Baltimore Orioles in Georgia this winter may have been due to the moderate winter temperatures, or increased food supplies, and this may also have contributed to the occurrence of the two Bullock's Orioles. This co-occurrence of Bullock's Orioles with abundant sightings of Baltimore Orioles implies that a more careful look for Bullock's Orioles should occur during winters with abundant sightings of Baltimore Orioles. Certainly, the proclivity of Baltimore Orioles for pecan orchards, and my finding of an immature Bullock's Oriole in an orchard that also had an adult Baltimore Oriole, would suggest that pecan orchards would be a good place to look for both oriole species in future winters.

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Figure 1. Immature male Bullock's Oriole in a pecan orchard in Bulloch County, GA, December 2005.

