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### On the correct name of *Icterus bullockii* (Passeriformes: Icteridae)

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William Bullock was an Englishman who owned the Egyptian Hall (also known as the London Museum or Bullock's Museum) at Piccadilly in London, a museum opened in 1812 to display his collection of antiquities, artifacts, and natural history specimens. Following the sale of Bullock's collection in 1819, the Egyptian Hall served as an exhibition space. Bullock and his son, William Bullock, Jr., both enthusiastic naturalists, travelled in Mexico in 1822–1823, spending some six months together collecting natural history specimens and other artifacts for exhibition and investigating mining and other business opportunities (Costeloe 2006). The elder Bullock returned to London with the collections in 1823, but his son, while ostensibly managing the silver mine his father had purchased in Temascaltepec, outside of Mexico City, continued to travel in Mexico and collect specimens, often in the company of German naturalist Ferdinand Deppe (Costeloe 2006). William Bullock, Sr., meanwhile prepared the Mexican collection for exhibition at the Egyptian Hall. Twin exhibitions on ancient and modern Mexico opened, with much fanfare, in April 1824, and were a great success, remaining open until September 1825 (Costeloe 2006). Afterwards, the contents of the exhibitions were dispersed via auction, but not before Bullock had made the bird specimens available to English naturalist William Swainson for "recording this portion of his discoveries" (Swainson 1827: 365).

Swainson published the ornithological results of the Bullocks' joint trip to Mexico in a paper entitled "A Synopsis of the Birds discovered in Mexico by W. Bullock, F.L.S. and H.S., and Mr. William Bullock, jun." (Swainson 1827). Among the birds described by Swainson was *Xanthornus Bullockii*, an oriole of the family Icteridae now known as *Icterus bullockii* or Bullock's Oriole. In his description, Swainson (1827: 436) stated that this species, "the most beautiful of the group yet discovered in Mexico, will record the name of those ornithologists who have thrown so much light on the birds of that country." Although Swainson used the singular possessive form *bullockii* for the species name, it is clear both from the statement in the description and the title of the paper that his intent was to honor both William Bullock, Sr., and William Bullock, Jr. As Mearns & Mearns (1992: 555–556) also noted, "when naming this bird Swainson was obviously thinking of the two William Bullocks, father and son." Therefore, the plural possessive form *bullockorum* should have been used (Article 31.1.2 of the Code; ICZN 1999).

Article 32.5.1 of the fourth edition of the Code (ICZN 1999: 39) states, "If there is in the original publication itself, without recourse to any external source of information, clear evidence of an inadvertent error, such as a lapsus calami or a copyist's or printer's error, it must be corrected." An example that followed this statement in the third edition of the Code (ICZN 1985: 69; this very clear example was, unfortunately, not included in the fourth edition) is an exact parallel to the problem described above for *Icterus bullockii*: "Similarly, *douglasi*, in *Eptesicus douglasi*, said to be named after Marion and Athol Douglas, is an incorrect original spelling that must be corrected to *douglasorum*."

Because the species was named after the two Bullocks, *Icterus bullockii* is an incorrect original spelling that must be corrected to *Icterus bullockorum*. It seems altogether fitting that this should be the case: the elder Bullock was much renowned in his day, meriting recognition as a Fellow of the Linnaean Society of London and later an article in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, but William Bullock, Jr., was also a dedicated field naturalist. Father and son worked together during the trip on which *Icterus bullockorum* was collected, and the younger Bullock continued to collect in Mexico and to send specimens to Swainson following his father's return to England (Swainson 1827). According to Stresemann (1954: 86), the younger Bullock and Deppe were "the first naturalists who ever collected birds in México for scientific purposes" and their collections "formed the foundation of Mexican ornithology."

There remains the question of the English name Bullock's Oriole, which, like the scientific name, uses the singular possessive. Olson (1996), faced with a similar situation with respect to Craveri's Murrelet, considered the possible English names Craveri's Murrelet and Craveri Brothers' Murrelet to be ungainly and suggested that the change from the singular possessive Craveri's to the plural possessive Craveris' "is too subtle a change to be noticed and perpetuated." He thought that the best solution might be to drop the possessive and refer to the species simply as the Craveri Murrelet.