






Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Patuxent Bird Identification InfoCenter

As a supplement to our population dynamics information on birds, Patuxent investigators have prepared an extensive archive of information on bird identification, distribution, and life history.

Patuxent provides summary information over the internet for about 700 species in North America: identification tips; where the species are found (based on the North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Christmas Bird Count); pictures and songs contributed by scientists, naturalists, and other bird watchers; data on the size, food habits, reproduction, and habitat use of the species; and pictures of eggs of selected species and links to the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) are offered for those who want to know more about the taxonomy of the species.

Here, for example, are identification tips for Baltimore Orioles, with links to other data available for the species:

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ID Tips Life History BBS Map CBC Map (also Bullock's) Animated Map Song Egg Taxonomy (ITIS) Print Version Glossary Submit your comments Help Back to List 	<p style="text-align: center;">Baltimore oriole <i>Icterus galbula</i></p> <hr/> <p>Identification Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Length: 7 inches ● Sharply-pointed bill <p>Male:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Black head, back, wings and tail ● Orange underparts, shoulder, and rump ● Orange tips to outer tail feathers ● White wing bar and edges ● Immature male similar to female but brighter orange with variable amounts of black on head <p>Female:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brownish-gray upperparts ● Dull yellowish-orange breast and undertail coverts ● Gray belly ● Two wing bars <p>Similar species:</p> <p>Male Baltimore Oriole can be told from other black and orange orioles by its completely black head. Female is similar to other female orioles but can be told from Bullock's by its more orange breast and less gray upperparts. Hooded and Orchard orioles have more extensively yellow underparts.</p> <p>Author: Gregory Gough USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center</p> <p>Length and wingspan from: Robbins, C. S., Bruun, B., and Zim, H. (1983). <i>Birds of North America</i>. New York: Golden Press</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Patuxent Wildlife Research Center - Bird Population Studies</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Patuxent Wildlife Research Center - Bird Identification InfoCenter</p>	<p>Male</p>  <p>Female</p> 
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Print versions of the species accounts are also linked to the InfoCenter. The Bird Identification InfoCenter can be reached through the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Web Site:

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov> Then click on "Patuxent Bird ID InfoCenter"