



California Wildlife Center

Patient of the Week

April 10, 2026

Patient of the Week - No Oriole-inary Patient



Bullock's Oriole

A Bullock's Oriole nestling was admitted to our NICU after being transferred to CWC from Pasadena Humane Society. Upon arrival at CWC, the nestling received subcutaneous fluids and was placed in a NICU incubator for supportive care. Our team will closely monitor the bird and provide care and enrichment to help ensure they reach species-specific developmental benchmarks.

Bullock's Orioles are one of the 60 species of Orioles worldwide. This type of bird is segmented into "New World" species, native to the Americas, and "Old World" species which originate from Europe, Africa and Asia. The Bullock's Oriole is native to California and can be seen in spring and summer before migrating to Mexico for the winter. Adult male Bullock's Orioles are visually striking, with bright orange features and black-and-white wings, while females of this species have more muted colors.

The Bullock's Oriole has a diet that consists of insects, fruit and nectar from flowers and plants. You might even spot one lapping up sugar water from a backyard hummingbird feeder! In addition to sugar water, they are enthusiastic about citrus. While in care at CWC, their diets contain citrus, usually oranges but sometimes grapefruit or lemon! Some believe this species is drawn to the color orange, which perhaps gives them their affinity for the sweet fruit. When citrus is not available, we have given our patients jelly, which they lap up with equal enthusiasm.

The patient is healing well, is eager to eat, and appears alert and bright. The Bullock's Oriole will remain in the NICU until they are self-feeding, reach an appropriate weight, and are flighted. The bird will then be moved to one of our outdoor aviaries where they will acclimate to the outdoors and strengthen their flight muscles in preparation for returning to the wild.