

DOCUMENTATION --
PAPE BIRD SIGHTING

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION
AMERICAN BIRDS

1998-156

ACCEPTED (7-2)

Species: Painted Bunting
(Vernacular name)

Passerina ciris
(Scientific name)

4-8-98 ✓

If you watch birds solely for your own enjoyment, a written description of your observations is unnecessary. But, if you have seen something unusual, and would like to share this with others, a written description is essential. Compilers of regional bird lists must insist that their records be scientifically sound; future bird students--those studying occurrences 50 years from now--must have a written record on which to depend. By providing the verifying written description, you are employing a basic rule of the scientific method.

We recognize that experienced field observers can provide important and reliable records, if supported by an adequate verifying description. Thus this request is an effort to perpetuate your record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for examination by others in the future. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation, irrespective of the observer.

Date (s): 3-23 through 3-26-1998 Time Bird Seen: 7 AM to 6:30 PM (MST)

Locality: Delta - Delta County - Colorado

Nearest town, county and state:

Optical equipment: binoculars

If photographed, please enclose copy. Equipment used:

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: Male Plumage: breeding

Light conditions: From bright sunlight to shade

Distance from bird, and how measured: 6 to 7 feet - by eye

Describe the bird's overall behavior: This bird hung out with a flock of sparrows that regularly use our yard where we provide food and water. He was not skittish as were the sparrows and finches, but stayed to feed when they flew up. He would stay until almost dark. This bird got along well with sparrows and finches. He would come to feed early in the morning and be in view off and on until mid day, then reappear in late afternoon and evening. This bird seemed to be very hungry, filling up as much as possible and wasting no energy. If it could prevent doing so.

Describe the habitat in which you observed the bird:

Bird was observed in our front yard which has globe willows and a blue spruce where it spent the night with the flock of sparrows.

Other observers who independently identified this bird (Please list name and address):

None

Describe in great detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird, but include a complete description of the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern; details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail. (Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions is not enough.) Describe what you actually saw in the field. ★

Dark blue head. Intense yellow-green (almost chartreuse) on back. Medium green on shoulders and wings. Brilliant pure red breast and rump. Sides also red but a bit more orange. Dark tail. We don't recall bill or leg color as the beauty of the feathers held our attention, but they were dark. Shape of bill similar to that of a sparrow. Bird was slightly smaller than house sparrow and a little less round in shape. Length of tail medium and somewhat square at the end.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including method of delivery-- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.:

none heard

List similar species and how you eliminated them:

There is no other bird with which it could be confused. ★

Prior experience with this and similar species:

We have seen Painted buntings in Florida and Indigo buntings in Delaware.

This report was written from notes made during ___ after ___ observation; from memory ☒

NAME (print): Michael + Shirley Zubowicz

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Signature:

Return to:

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