

ACCEPTED (7-0)

CFO-ORC-FILE# 1998-157

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS SIGHT RECORD FORM

rec'd 6-12-98 ✓

Results: \_\_\_\_\_

Species: Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

Dates: 23 May 98

Number of birds seen: One

Sex: Male

Plumage: Adult

Locality: Cottonwood canyon; 1.1 miles south of the old cabin on J road on the west side of Cottonwood creek.

Elevation: 5000 feet

Nearest town: Kim, CO

County: Baca

Time observed: 1:50 pm

Duration of observation: First observed momentarily in flight, then observed perched 20 sec.

Other observers present: Lisa Marchet

Other observers who saw the bird independently: None

Optical equipment: Leica 10x40 binoculars.

Distance from the bird: 25 feet.

Description of the bird's behavior: Bird was weary and somewhat difficult to approach. This bird remained in cover of oak canopy and after becoming aware of my presence, nervously flew without hesitation out of view.

Description of the bird observed: Bird was first observed flying away from me and the first thing I noticed was a small bird the size of an Indigo Bunting with a distinctive red rump. At this point I yelled to Lisa that I think a Painted Bunting just flew up out of view. I followed and watched for movement in the oak canopy and a male Painted Bunting appeared. With binoculars, I was able to observe clearly the blue head, green back and red underparts and eye-ring before the bird flew.

Description of the bird's song and/or call if heard: The bird did not vocalize.

Description of the habitat where the bird was observed: The Painted Bunting initially flew from low shrubs along the riparian corridor 10 feet from the creek. The bird was then found in a stand of mature gambel oak trees on top of an embankment 25 feet from the creek. General habitat characteristics include: canyons containing willow and other riparian shrubs adjacent stream, a cottonwood gallery, and juniper beyond the riparian area interspersed with gambel oak and cholla cactus.

WEATHER - cloud cover 15%, mid-seventies, slight breeze, sunny.

**Elimination of similar species:** Blue Grosbeaks are larger with no red or green in their plumage. Indigo and Lazuli Buntings are similar in size but neither have red or green in their plumage. The striking male plumage of the Painted Bunting eliminates all other similar species including sparrows which may be similar in size.

**Prior experience with this and similar appearing species:** *Painted Bunting* - Rio Grande Valley, Texas (Spring 98), Sinaloa, Mexico (Winter 98). *Indigo Buntings*, *Lazuli Buntings*, *Blue Grosbeaks* - individuals seen daily in Cottonwood canyon (22-24 May 98).

**Books useful to identification:**

**This report written from notes taken during/after observation/from memory:**

Written from notes taken after observation on 23 May 98.

**Reporting observer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Peter Gaede

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