

rec'd 7/1/03

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

(this is a two page report-click at the bottom for page 2)

CBRC FILE #:

2003-~~36~~ 36

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RESULTS:

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific names):

Painted Bunting  
*Passerina ciris*

Date(s) of Observation: 16 June 2003

Number of birds seen: 1

Sex:

♂

Plumage: Adult

Exact location: Cottonwood Canyon approx. 1/4 mi. up slope from  
old abandoned/dilapidated cabin

County: Baca

Nearest town: Springfield

Elevation: ~4,500 ft. ?

Length of observation: 1 minute

Time(s) of observation: 9:00 AM

Other observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Les Lieurance

Other observers who independently saw the bird(s): none

Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observer(s) position):

Excellent light; viewed once in dappled sunlight, once in open shade

Optical equipment used: Bausch + Lomb 10x42 Elite bins

Swarovski 80mm HD scope

Distance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted):

~40 feet

Was (were) bird(s) photographed? no

If so, are you submitting photos?

Who took the photograph(s)?

Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred:

Streamside cottonwood and pine trees

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits:

First viewed perched in tall cottonwood tree, bird  
flew across creek into pine tree. Not feeding.[click here for page 2 of this form](http://www.cfo-link.org/reportform.html)

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page 2

**DESCRIPTION** -- This is the **most important** part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings - folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes.

We were hearing a Solitary-type vireo singing from direction of 2 very tall cottonwood trees across the creek. I was searching the upper branches of these trees when I finally saw a small passerine flit from one branch to the next. When I raised my binoculars to look at the bird, I was amazed to see the adult male Painted Bunting. He had a bright cobalt blue head, extending across face + ear coverts. Eyes + bill were dark. From the chin throughout breast, tummy + vent, his underparts were rosy red. Wings + tail were dark. I did not see his back. As he flew across the stream, I again saw that he was pure red

→  
over

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: silent

**SIMILAR SPECIES** -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration.

No other N. American species have similar plumage.  
No other similarly sized + shaped N. American species are colored this way.

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? Have seen males of this species only in TX ~ 4 years ago on a short visit.

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): Did not use any resources to ID this bird - have seen Lazuli, Indigo, Varied + Painted Buntings before + this bird was unmistakably a Painted.

This report is from notes made from (check one) ☐ noted made during observation ☒ notes made after observation ☐ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: 6 PM 22 June 2003

Reporting observer: Cindy Lieurance Signature: C. Lieurance  
101 Parnassus Ave, #1

Address: San Francisco CA 94117  
415 661-4362

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee, Tony Leukering, PO Box 660, Brighton,

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2003-~~3~~

rec'd 7/1/03

**Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form**

(this is a two page report-click at the bottom for page 2)

CBRC FILE #: 2003-<sup>36</sup>~~3~~  
RESULTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Print this page and then fill out. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species (please include common and scientific names): Painted Bunting Passerina ~~ciris~~ cirisDate(s) of Observation: June 16, 2003Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: M Plumage: Adult maleExact location: Cottonwood Canyon - ~~ab~~ upstream from old cabin.County: Baca Nearest town: Springfield Elevation: 74000'Length of observation: 1 minute Time(s) of observation: around 9amOther observers who saw the bird(s) with you: Cindy LieuranceOther observers who independently saw the bird(s): ?Light conditions (quality; direction relative to bird(s) and observer(s) position): open shadeOptical equipment used: Elite 10x42 binoculars  
Swarovski 80mm STS 20-60 zoomDistance to bird(s) (estimated, unless otherwise noted): 60 feetWas (were) bird(s) photographed? NO If so, are you submitting photos? —Who took the photograph(s)? —Describe the general and specific habitats in which the bird(s) occurred: Streamside conifers  
+ deciduous trees + brush

Describe the bird's (birds') behaviors, particularly behaviors that were used in supporting the identification, e.g., flying, feeding, habits:

Sitting still in bush upslope  
from our position. Partially obscured but Blue, green + red  
colrs obvious.[click here for page 2 of this form](#)



## Colorado Field Ornithologists Sight Record Form

page 2

**DESCRIPTION** -- This is the **most important** part of this report. Include in these details the overall size and shape of the bird, how you placed the bird in the general group that you did, and give as many plumage details as possible, even including those that you feel might not have relevance to the specific identification. Features to include are the color(s) and/or patterns of the head, eyes, bill, back, folded wings, open wings, tail, chin, throat, breast, sides, flanks, belly, vent, and legs. Also, please include, where possible, shape of the whole bird, of the wings - folded or open, of the bill, and of the tail. Please fill out this portion even if photos are accompanying your report. We welcome attachments of additional sheets of description, drawings, field sketches, or copies of field notes.

Blue head, dark wings. Green back & red underparts & rump. Conical bill with dark upper mandible, lighter lower. Dark eyes & legs.

Describe the bird's (birds') call(s) and/or song(s), if noted: *None noted.*

**SIMILAR SPECIES** -- This is another critical part of your report. Please discuss how you eliminated similar species from consideration. *No other birds present during observation. This color combination unique to adult male Painted Bunting.*

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species? *Several adults seen in TX & immature in Florida.*

List books, guides, recordings, or other sources consulted and how this influenced your identification (during and after observation): *Nat'l Geo. Guide*

This report is from notes made from (check one) ☐ noted made during observation ☐ noted made after observation ☒ later from memory.

Date and time of written report: *June 27, 2003*

Reporting observer: *Leslie Lieurance*

Signature: *Leslie Lieurance*

Address: *101 Parnassus Ave #1  
San Francisco CA 94117*

Send report to: Colorado Birds Record Committee, Tony Leukering, PO Box 660, Brighton, CO 80601.

2003-BAB

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Plumage Details: Blue head with red eye ring; all red underbody; red rump in flight; green back and wings

Time: 1015 hours APX to APX 1035 hours, 20 minutes total

Observed: 05/25/03 by Paul Mackenzie

Location: Cottonwood Canyon Baca County. Approximately 300 yards up the road past the entrance to the side canyon with the old cabin

Weather: Overcast 55 degrees, foggy, slight breeze from southwest

Behavior: 1<sup>st</sup> observed singing from the top of dead tree, seen from approximately 20 feet. I moved within 12 feet of the bird. It was joined by a singing Bewick's Wren who seemed agitated at the Buntings presence. The bird then flew across the clearing and sang for another 10 minutes. Total viewing time was 20 minutes. While searching for the bird I flushed a Yellow Billed Cuckoo who flew approximately 25 feet away and sang. (A song I'm familiar with) The white tail pattern was visible. I did not see the bill but again it was singing.

Optics Used: Swarovski EL 8.5X42

Field Guide Used: Sibley Guide