

Painted Bunting

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: Beautiful pictures. Looks good for a Painted Bunting.

CM2: A very well documented record. I personally viewed this bird thanks to the graciousness of the home-owner. A male Painted Bunting in breeding plumage is, for the most part, an unmistakable bird. The photographs leave no doubt as to the identification. Possibility of an escapee is always a concern with such an attractive species, and it would have been nice to have some discussion as to this concern in the submission. However, from personally viewing the bird, it exhibited no signs of cage wear. Its behavior was consistent with that of a wild-type bird in that it was very cautious approaching feeders and wary of humans, etc. The timing also fits as Painted Bunting has an established history of wandering and spending time at good feeder locations outside of its normal range. For all those reasons, I feel a vote FOR this record is warranted in this case.

CM3: A clear and straightforward identification. Great photo documentation!

CM4: Multiple experienced observers.

CM5: I vote to include the Jefferson County sighting of the Painted Bunting record for official state list. This is an excellent report with supporting photographs provide the evidence to conclusively include in the record. The photographs are unmistakable adult male with brilliant blue head, green back, red rump and red belly.

CM6: Nice Photo.

CM7: I have banded 50 Painted Buntings and studied their habitat and feeding preferences in Coastal Georgia as part of my dissertation. Joette's description of habitat and feeding preferences is "spot on" for the bird. The frequently visit feeders in their breeding range and prefer millet as a common food. The primarily reason for accepting this report, though, is the description. There simply aren't any other birds native to North America that come remotely close to the color patterns of an adult Painted Bunting. Those species that look close to it outside of North America as potential exotics (parakeets, lorikeets, etc.) typically do not eat millet and are larger than a bunting.