Species: Painted Bunting
Location: Pipersom, WV
Date: 4/22/23
Time: 11:25 a.m.
Bird Seen: 11:25 a.m. To: 11:30 a.m.
Age/Sex: Adult male

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)

I have forwarded the photos that Mr. Neely took the day before we saw it; he may also send them again with his report.

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:
no vocals

Description of behavior:
It appeared 10' from us without us seeing it arrive. Perched for about a minute then flew to a feeder and then moved to a branch about the feeder briefly then flew across the road and into the woods. In view 5 minutes or less.
Habitat: (General and Specific)

In a yard with trees, bushes for cover and feeders, water provided alongside a lane and a half-sized road. At least 3 other houses nearby.

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

Appeared on a wire fence about 10' from us. Too close for 10x42 binoculars. After about a minute it flew to a bird feeder about 15-20' from us. It then flew to a branch above the feeder for about a minute, then flew across the road and out of sight. 
Overcast morning, First view was best, colors visible, thin shape but poor color.

Previous experience with this species:

NONE

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

Nothing else with those colors and pattern.

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)
If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report. Jim & Judy Phillips

Additional observer signature: [ ]

Additional observer signature: [ ]

Additional observer signature: [ ]
Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and especially how did these influence this description:

Really didn't need a guide.
Have studied over the pictures in guides for years
and have a nephew in FL who sees them all the time
and e-mails us his photos.

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

About 1 hour.

Name: Jim Phillips

Address:

Date: 4/23/23

Signature:

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee
Attn: Wil Hershberger
170 Stallion Ct.
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Or E-mail to:
wilhershberger@mac.com
The Neelys were solid with the identification and had consulted their Peterson guide; they showed us the photos they had taken of the bird the day before we saw it.

They also were aware of its rarity.
WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM
Please Type or Print Legibly

Species: PAINTED BUNTING
Number: (leave blank)

Location: Pipestem, WV 26711
Date: 4-21-2023
Time: 10:45 AM

Bird Seen: 4-20-23  To: PRESENT
Age/Sex: 

Description: In lieu of physical material substantiating a record (e.g., specimen, diagnostic photograph, vocal recordings) a complete written description can serve as verification for the biological record. Please be as thorough as your field notes allow. Do not feel constrained by the space provided. Additional supporting descriptions/illustrations may be attached. Note that photographs or recordings WILL NOT BE RETURNED but become part of the permanent record for the observation.

Structure: (Overall size and shape plus details on the head, feet, tail, etc.)
ABOUT THE SIZE OF A SPARROW

Plumage: (e.g. markings, coloration, molt)
RED BREAST, BLUE HEAD, YELLOW, SOME GREEN, SOME BLACK

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:
NOT HEARD

Description of behavior:
VERY FLIGHTY, NOT STILL VERY LONG
Habitat: (General and Specific)

Flying from brush to trees near home

Circumstances of observation: (Include details of distance to bird, optics employed, lighting in relation to observer and the bird)

Up to ten feet and less Picture taken on ground about 4 ft. away

Previous experience with this species:

NONE

Experiences with similarly appearing species which are eliminated by your description: (Please be specific)

NONE

Other observers: (Names, Addresses, E-mail please)
If the others agree with your identification they can sign this form here. If they care to provide additional details they can submit their own report.

Jim and Judy Phillips submitting separate report

Additional observer signature: Mary Jane Neely

Additional observer signature: 

Additional observer signature: 
Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and especially how did these influence this description:

Peterson Field Guides
Eastern Birds of Retired Naturalist

How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Took picture on second sighting

Name: Robert & Mary Jane Neely

Address: [Redacted]

Date: [Redacted]

Signature: [Redacted]

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee
Attn: Wil Hershberger
170 Stallion Ct.
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Or E-mail to:
wilhershberger@mac.com
On the evening of 4-19-23 around 7:30 my wife seen a bird land beside our front porch, just a glimpse of red and stated "What kind of bird was that." The next morning I saw a multicolored bird land at our feeder in the multi-ped front yard. I laid down on my stomach on our front porch for two hours hoping it would return. It did and I took the pictures with my cell phone, blurry but had to take picture in a hurry.

On April 22, 2023 naturalist Jim Phillips and his wife Judy sat on our porch and sighted the bird also.