

WV BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Please Type or Print Legibly

Species: **Painted Bunting (Passerina ciris)** Number: (leave blank)
Location: Date: **3/8/2018** Time: **4:08 PM**
Bird Seen: **Painted Bunting** To: **Joette Borzik** 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.)

Bird the shape and size of a bunting, tail and body shape similar to an Indigo Bunting, but different plumage color.

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

Adult male. Red underparts, blue head, red eye ring, green on upper wings, darker green on primaries.

Description of any vocalizations, if heard:

No vocalizations heard.

Description of behavior:

The bird was seen perched, and eating at a bird feeder of millet and black sunflower seeds. It was also seen perched upright in nearby shrubbery, waiting to safely fly to the feeder stand.

Habitat: (General and Specific)

The property where the feeders were present was almost 3 acres. It consisted of lawn, a row of non-native Leland Cypress trees, various native and non-native shrubs, and a patchy grass component with native grasses like Broomsedge (*Andropogon* sp.) and non-native grasses. In general, it was open with some cover provided.

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

Diane Blust, property owner, discovered the bird at her feeder stand on January 27, 2018. She was working in her home office, and the feeder stand is about 10 feet away from her window. She had an excellent view, and took her initial photos with a mobile phone camera.

Previous experience with this species:

Diane had no experience with this bird species. She stated to me that it looked to her like a tanager, but did not match any photos in the "Birds of West Virginia" field guide by Stan Tekiela. She entered the main plumage colors of the bird into a google search, and was able to identify that the bird visiting her feeder was a Painted Bunting.

I have experience seeing the Painted Bunting numerous times before in Texas, Florida, Grand Bahama, North Carolina and Mexico. I currently have 22 recorded sightings of Painted Bunting in my eBird profile.

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

It was clear that this was not an Indigo Bunting, which does not occur in West Virginia in the winter.

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.

Diane Blunt,

William "Bill" Telfair,

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

Additional observer signature:

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

Diane Blust used a google search for making her identification of the bird. Bill Telfair and I were able to identify this bird by sight based on previous experience with this species.

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

I am writing this report hours after the bird sighting. I also have numerous photos to confirm the species, and those photos are attached.

Name:

Joette Borzik

Address:

Date:

Signature:

Mail to: WV Bird Records Committee
Attn: Wil Hersberger
170 Stallion Ct.
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Or E-mail to:
wilhershberger@mac.com

Please use the space below to add any appropriate details you feel were missing from the above form or to expand on any answers whose allotted space was insufficient for a complete response:

Diane Blust's feeder sightings:

January 27, 2018 first sighting with photo taken on cell phone

February 19, 2018

February 27, 2018

February 28, 2018

March 2, 2018

March 6, 2018

March 7, 2018 (Bill Telfair also saw and photographed the bird at Diane's feeders)

March 8, 2018 (Joette Borzik, Diane Blust and Bill Telfair saw the bird at Diane's feeders at 4:08 PM, and then again at 4:33 PM)

Photos from Diane, Joette and Bill are attached.

Diane requests that no birders who see this bird on her property report it to eBird now. She expressed concern about birders exploring her property uninvited, looking for the bird without her permission. If birders start to stake out her property, it may prevent the bird from approaching her feeders, and she does not want this to happen. All sightings of the bird have occurred when the observers were inside her home.





Bill Telfair



Bill Telfair



Bill Telfair



Joette Borzik



Joette Borzik