

794-01-1995

**Mike Fialkovich**  
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**Pittsburgh, PA 15235**  
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February 3, 1997

Nick Pulcinella  
P.O.R.C. Chairman  
201 Elm Avenue  
Apt 6  
Swarthmore, PA 19081

Dear Nick,

Enclosed is a rare bird report for Allegheny County. Please note that this description is a **Painted Bunting from October, 7, 1995**.

I read the description in a local publication on natural history in Western Pennsylvania back in October, 1995. I thought it sounded good, but did not know the author, or how to contact him. In October, 1996, a second article was published as a remembrance of the observation by the author. In November, 1996, the gentleman who publishes this newsletter led an outing for our Audubon Society and introduced me to the person who wrote the article. I requested a description from him, and realized that I actually met him on other outings. I recalled that he knew both resident and migrant birds in the area, and I could tell he was experienced from speaking to him. I think the description is very good, and I wanted to submit it to the committee in spite of the late date as I feel it is well worth reeviwing.

Keep in mind that although I'm sending this to you just over a year after the sighting, the observer wrote the article at the time he observed the bird.

I apologize for the cumbersome writing in this letter, but I had to attempt to explain the situation.

If you have any questions, etc. please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mike Fialkovich

Enclosure

794-1995

DATE: OCTOBER 7, 1995

Joe Walko

LOCATION: BACKWARD, 762 VANDERBILT DRIVE, MONROEVILLE, PA 15146 ALLEGHENY COUNTY

TIME: 12:15 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

SPECIES: PAINTED BUNTING

SEX: FEMALE OR IMMATURE

DESCRIPTION: GREENISH FINCH-LIKE BIRD. ABOVE, DULL GREENISH BACK, NAPE, HEAD AND TAIL. VERY FAINT DARK STREAKS ON BACK, WINGS AND TAIL DARKER GREEN. RUMP AND UPPERTAIL COVERTS A LIGHTER, YELLOWISH GREEN. BREAST AND UNDERPARTS A LIGHTER, YELLOWISH GREEN. SIDES SLIGHTLY DARKER. STOUT, CONICAL FINCH-LIKE BEAK.

IN TERMS OF COLORATION, PERHAPS THIS BIRD'S MOST DISTINGUISHING FEATURES ARE IT'S LACK OF FIELD MARKS - NO WING BARS, NO STREAKING, NO EYE RINGS. JUST A VERY PLAIN, GREENISH FINCH-LIKE BIRD.

SIZE: THE BIRD WAS FEEDING ON SEEDS BELOW A FEEDER; IT WAS LARGER THAN CHIPPING SPARROWS BUT SMALLER THAN HOUSE SPARROWS FEEDING NEXT TO IT.

BEHAVIOR: THE BIRD WAS FIRST OBSERVED SLEEPING WITH IT'S HEAD TUCKED UNDER AT 12:15 P.M. IT SLEPT FOR 15 MINUTES ON THE GROUND BEFORE IT AWOKS TO DIVE ON SEEDS. OBVIOUSLY EXHAUSTED. SLEPT THROUGH AN HELICOPTER FLY-BY THAT SCATTERED ALL THE OTHER FEEDER BIRDS. ONCE AWAKE, IT ATE HEARTILY

OTHER: THE BIRD IS PROBABLY BEAT UP. IT IS MISSING A TAIL FEATHER, AND ANOTHER IS BENT. IT'S CONTOUR FEATHERS ARE DISHEVELLED. THE BIRD SEEMS ~~BEING~~ ~~BEING~~ ~~BEING~~ DISORIENTED.

NOTE: HURRICANE OPAL MOVED UP FROM THE GULF STATES QUICKLY AND PASSED THROUGH THE PITTSBURGH AREA ON OCTOBER 5, 1995.

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

Date of Sighting: 7 October 1995 to 7 October 1995

Location: MONROEVILLE

County: ALLEGHENY

Observer(s): Joe Walko

Date of Submission: 1995

Submitted by:

Written Description: YES

Photo: NO

Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater			X					
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
S. Feldstein			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

8-16-97