

Hi Nick,

Below is an email I received from an Ebird user who reported a male Painted Bunting at his feeder in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh 4-27-2011. I asked for details so I'm submitting them to PORC for review.

Thanks.

Mike

Dear Mike,

I am responding to your email of April 30th with regards to my Painted Bunting sighting on Wednesday, April 27th. Let me preface my remarks by saying I am an amateur bird watcher and have no scientific training. On Easter Sunday, April 24th I noticed that two new species to my checklist had made their first appearance of the spring: a pair of American Goldfinches and a Downy Woodpecker. I thought the week would bring new spring migrants so I was particularly watchful during the week. On Wednesday morning at approximately 8:30AM, I stood on my deck looking in the trees around my feeders and saw a colorful bird I had never seen before. I was quite excited because it's plumage was spectacular. This bird had a purple head, rosy coral breast, and a chartreuse green back. It stayed in the tree, perched on the same branch for at least 15 minutes, long enough for me to retrieve binoculars for closer inspection. As I said, I had never seen such a bird and as I watched it my mind raced with the possibilities of it's species. I will admit the first bird that crossed my mind was a painted bunting because of the brilliant colors of it's plumage. I left the bird to try to look up it's species through the website allaboutbirds.org. The first bird I investigated was the painted bunting and found the coloration a match, however, when I looked at it's range I thought it must be some other bird. I investigated other buntings and grosbeaks but none had this particular coloration. I then tried to enter my sighting into ebird and it was then that I discovered how anomalous this sighting actually was. I did see the bird again at the feeder around noon that same day but by the time I had reappeared with a camera to take it's picture, it had flown away. I apologize for my lack of verifiable evidence, but I remain convinced the bird I saw was a painted bunting. My camera is at the ready and should it return I will submit pictures.

If you could suggest birds with similar coloration that may be more prevalent in Eastern PA, I would be happy to look through them and see if I might have confused it with something else. I have done some research and found that though it is incredibly infrequent, there have been verified painted bunting sightings in PA. I wish I had been more knowledgeable at the first sighting and had a picture to enter into evidence.

Sincerely,
Chris McNamara

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

Date of Sighting: 27 April 2011 to 27 April 2011

County : ALLEGHENY

Location : PITTSBURGH

Observer(s): Chris McNamara

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Mike Fialkovich

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: No

| Member | Class I | Class II | Class III | Class IV-A | Class IV-B | Class IV-C | Class V |
|-------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|
| D. DeReamus | | | X | | | | |
| A. Guarente | | | X | | | | |
| T. Johnson | | | X | | | | |
| B. Coulter | | | X | | | | |
| R. Koury | | | X | | | | |
| D. Weber | | | X | | | | |
| G. Malosh | | | X | | | | |
| TOTALS | | | 7 | | | | |
| DECISION | | | X | | | | |

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 1/21/12