

Species: Painted Bunting

Number: 1

Age: 2nd year

Sex: male

Date You Saw It: 2003/05/19

Time: Morning

Duration: 7:15-7:16 (observed) and 7:30-8:00(captured)

Dates Known In Area: 2003/05/19

Exact Location Seen: Breakwater Field Station, Long Point Bird Observatory, Ontario

Habitat: open, shrubby. Willows, walnuts

Weather: Light east wind, visibility=30km, no clouds

Kind Of Lighting: inside (excellent)

Observer Distance: initial observation was about 30ft, then it was captured and examined in hand

Optics Used: Bausch and Lomb Discoverer (10X42)

Photographs: Taken

Date This Report Written: 2003/05/19

Circumstances Of The Observation: At ~7:15 a.m we (Ken Burrell and Henri Roberts) were coming back from checking the nets. As I approached the cabin, a bird flew about four feet up into a Walnut Tree. From there I noticed features which distinguished it as a small passerina bunting, with distinct greenish colouring on the upperparts. At that point it flew a short distance and landed on a sand dune, where I could not locate the bird again. The following check of nets (~7:30 a.m) I extracted the bird, about fifty metres east of where I had lost it. Following this the bird was banded and examined for approximately thirty minutes.

Description: - around the size of an Ovenbird, bunting or finch like silhouette - All of the upperparts were an aqua-greenish colouring, like the upperparts of a Ruby-throated hummingbird. However the back, scapulars, nape, rump and uppertail coverts were noticeably brighter green. There was an indistinct auricular patch which was slightly darker than the surrounding area. There were molt limits occurring at primary 4 to secondary 3, which led to the conclusion of a second year male. All the primaries were brownish with a greenish edging. The lesser coverts were greenish with very slight purplish-blue feathers at the base of the coverts. The median coverts were also an aqua-green colouring. The greater and primary coverts were the same greenish colour, with flecks of purplish-blue. The rectrices were fairly broad, with the greenish colouring only slight darker. The underparts including the flanks, throat, vent and undertail coverts were all a uniform yellowish-white colouring almost milky. There was a slight throat patch lighter in comparison to the belly. There was also a fairly distinct pale colouring. The eyes seemed a uniform dark colouring. The bill was a light yellow, mainly on the lower mandible near the base of the mouth. The rest of the bill was a dark gray or light black colouring. The bill was slightly but quite prominently downcurved. The legs were black.

Banding data: Wing- 69mm. Weight- 20.1g. Fat- 2 Band size- 1

SimilarSpecies: Eliminated from all "passerina" Buntings due to the greenish colouring on the upperparts. It was eliminated from a female Scarlet Tanager because the SCTA is much larger than a PABU. The SCTA is also much more yellowish-green on the upperparts compared to the PABU, which was an aqua-green, much like the back of a RTHU. Also SCTA bills are wider and larger overall.

ExperienceWithSpecies: none

ReferencesConsulted: Sibley Guide to Birds - David Allen Sibley Identification guide to N.A. Birds - Peter Pyle National Geographic

DescriptionMadeFrom: Field Notes

OriginalFinder: Ken Burrell 70 Arthur rd. Heidelberg, Ontario NOB 1YO (519) 699-4695

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