

Painted Bunting

Passerina ciris

FEATURES

The painted bunting is about five and one-half inches long (bill tip to tail tip in preserved specimen). The male has purple-blue head feathers, green back feathers, red feathers on the rump and underside and a red eye ring. The female and immature painted bunting have green feathers above that shade to lemon-yellow feathers below.

BEHAVIORS

The painted bunting lives in vegetation along rivers, woodland edges and weedy areas where it eats seeds, fruits and insects. This species nests as close to Illinois as Missouri and Tennessee, and there have been sightings of painted buntings in the state, but they are few and believed to represent individuals that migrated further than their normal breeding range. Some of the individuals seen could represent escaped caged birds. The species winters in Florida and Central America.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Cardinalidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

casual, native

ILLINOIS RANGE





Aquatic Habitats

rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge