

a few tall pines and some hardwoods and shrubbery. Sunlight shines on the feeders in late afternoon.

Without getting out of the car, I trained my 10x40 Zeiss roof prism binoculars on the feeders. Immediately, I spotted the Painted Bunting. I had seen the species before in Florida and had no doubts that this was an adult male. The species is often referred to as "nonpareil," which means without equal (Bull and Farrand, Jr., 1985). Indeed, it is the most brilliantly, if not gaudily-plumaged bird in North America.

The sparrow-sized bird at Minckler's feeder was similar in shape to an Indigo Bunting which is

abundant in southern Illinois during spring and summer. The head was violet-blue. The upper back was bright yellowish green. The rump and breast were dull red. Wings and tail were mostly dark.

I observed the bird for about 10 minutes as it sat in the feeder hunched over, moving very little and munching steadily on seeds. The bird could have been blown north of its normal migration route since moderately strong thunderstorms with southwest winds moved through the area a few days earlier.

I notified Vernon Kleen, heritage biologist with the Illinois Department of Conservation in Springfield, and

Todd Fink, a DOC biologist at Fern Clyffe State Park in southern Illinois. Kleen notified H. David Bohlen, who came from Springfield the next morning with Dennis Oehmke to photograph the bird. Fink and Judy K. DeNeal of Harrisburg also saw the bird which remained at the Minckler feeders until the evening of 22 April 1993.

Incidentally, the Blue Grosbeak, also an adult male, appeared at one of the Minckler's other feeders while I was watching the Painted Bunting. Minckler certainly was not understating it when she said "that was quite an unusual three-day period."

Other Nearby State Records

Recent Midwest records could indicate that the species is expanding its range (Mumford and Keller 1984).

The first Wisconsin record was a male seen 23 April 1942 along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Milwaukee. Subsequent records include a male in Douglas County 12-16 May 1983; a female or immature that flew into a garage in Door County 27 November 1983; and two different males discovered 12 May 1984 at feeders in Racine. Nine separate sightings of the Painted Bunting have been documented for Wisconsin (Robbins 1991).

An adult male specimen purport-

edly collected by Fletcher M. Noe in Indianapolis 12 April 1886 and housed in the California Academy of Science may be invalid because Noe falsified some of his data. (Mumford and Keller 1984). A dead male Painted Bunting was discovered next to the City County Building in Indianapolis 5 May 1983.

Minnesota has four records, all in May: 2 May 1893, probably an escaped bird; 12 - 15 May 1965, Cook County; 27-28 May 1969, Cottonwood County; and 18 May 1986, Nobles County (Janssen 1987).

Michigan has several records including a bird observed and photo-

graphed 5 May 1968 in Marquette; a bird at a feeder 2 May 1973, St. Clair County; April 1961, Houghton County; 30 April 1966, Benton Harbor, Berrien County; and a female 15 September 1973 at Grand Mere, Berrien County (Payne 1983).

Interestingly, the bird is on the hypothetical list for Kentucky with only one historical record in August 1892 (Monroe, Jr. et. al. 1988).



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