



Photo by Carlos M. Escamilla

Painted Bunting

among upright prairie coneflowers

In Spanish, the Painted Bunting is known as “mariposa” (butterfly); in French it is “nonpareil” (without equal). Females and young males are light yellowish green. In their second year, males transform, growing feathers of bright blue, green, and red.

They are birds of open landscapes with scattered trees, shrubs, and grasses, where males sing from tall perches and females build their nests low in shrubs or trees. They eat grasshoppers and caterpillars, along with seeds of bristle grasses, sedges, and wildflowers.

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