

My family has this book in our sitting room. I usually sit right beside or on it, and read it
sometimes. The book is a beautiful field guide to the birds of both America. I used to try these
unbelievable until I found it. I could spend hours wedged in that armchair looking at that book,
staring at beautiful, colorful birds. Even though I could not read yet. The night has caught
my eye. Every time I opened that book I would find patterns wood ducks, spotted terns, and
of course, the magnificent painted bunting.

Painted buntings are considered by many to be the most colorful native bird of both America,
although the males are far brighter. The females are just as eye-catching with their rusty green
hue. I have never seen one in person because I live in Minnesota, and the environment would
never add to the Florida native species. But my hope someday is to find a big flock of
buntings in the wild and maybe get pictures or a sketch or two.

They are relatively small birds (only 10-14 cm), but could be harder to spot one, but in the
summer when they molt to form colorful summer plumage I might have a chance, although in
the winter, they go back to being an inconspicuous brown. Despite the fact that their size may
be on the tiny side, their strong bills can still chomp through a lot of seeds and insects with
great efficiency. Throughout their life, painted buntings grow up in nests usually 2 to 8 feet
off the ground, and their feathers usually match out a green-brown (similar to winter molting). As
they reach maturity, two year later, the males will get the famous vibrant colors.

I chose to draw this bird, simply because it reminded me of my slightly younger ones. The
parts on the feathers were just too alluring to pass up. All in all, I had a wonderful time coloring
this piece, and I hope to get more of these opportunities in the future.

Painted bunting

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