

American birds was my favorite exhibit. I saw a lot of specimens but it was the painted bunting that attracted me the most because it was so colorful and beautiful.

The painted bunting normally is 12-14cm long and weighs 13-20g. That makes the painted bunting a relatively small bird compared to the other birds in the cardinal family. It mostly eats seeds, pig weeds but also eats insects like flies and dragonflies during the mating season. Painted bunting likes to live in woodlands and grasslands, and lives for more than 12 years. When it gets cold, painted buntings migrate and fly south to Central America.

Male and female painted buntings have a variety of colors. Males have blue heads, red bellies and green backs. That makes the males the most colorful birds that live in North America. Females are not that colorful and are colored just yellow-green. Although they are colorful, they are rarely seen by humans. They like dense areas so they have more space to fly and rest.

Because of their beautifully colored bodies, they get humans' attention and then humans sell them illegally in pet cages. Also, they suffer habitat losses and predators come and eat them. That makes them rarely seen in North America. That is why we need to help the painted buntings and take actions to help them survive. We can grow thick bushes and build trees in yards, build feeders, or donate money to the museum to help support wild bird projects. I hope some day I get to meet