

small-sized birds. They are usually smaller in stature, sometimes in length and weight than the more common grass. They are about the size of a sparrow.

Painted Buntings usually eat seeds from a variety of plants and flowers. They forage around and they feed seeds. The plants they get seeds from include grass, weeds, ragweed, spurge, St. John's-wort, daisy, sun, and more. Painted Buntings also eat insects when they require more protein in the breeding season. They eat grasshoppers, caterpillars, beetles, bees, flies, crickets, and so on. Painted Buntings also sometimes eat fish or larvae.

Painted Buntings usually prefer to live in brushy places to semi-open places. They live around streams, forest edges, and other areas with dense vegetation. In the winter Painted Buntings migrate. There are two groups of Painted Buntings: The Western and Eastern. They both have separate breeding grounds but prefer high grass, shrubby meadows, pastures, and fields. Western populations migrate to nesting areas in Arizona and southwestern Mexico where they nest before continuing to Central America. Eastern populations nest on the breeding grounds and migrate to southern Florida and some Caribbean islands.

Painted Buntings breed in semi-open habitats with scattered shrubs or trees. Birds from the north-central U.S. breeding population use abandoned farms, edges of wooded forests, meadows, fields, brushy meadows or woodlands, and patches of grasses, weeds, and wildflowers. Birds from the south Texasian population breed in scrub communities, wooded-bush areas, palm-tree thickets, edges of meadow hammocks, hedger, yards, yellow fields, and other tree-grass. Both members of a pair search for a place to build their nest. They usually choose a place that is six feet from the ground, where there are nearby perches and open feeding grounds. In about two days the female weaves together a nest using twigs, grass, leaves, weeds, bark, and roots. She then binds it together with sticks and sometimes lines the nest with hair like

The most common predators for Painted Buntings are snakes. The snakes prefer to eat the eggs,