

## A SIGHT RECORD OF THE PAINTED REDSTART NEAR VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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On 4 November 1973 a Painted Redstart (*Setophaga picta*) was discovered at about 0900 by Brian Kautesk in Ambleside Park, West Vancouver, just north of Vancouver, British Columbia. During the course of the day, the bird was also seen by Wayne C. Weber and a number of other local observers including Kelly E. Allies, Wilson F. Allies, Bruce A. Macdonald, Roy W. Phillips, G. Allen Poynter, Helen Poynter, Edward C. Sing, and Wendy J. Weber. At least three of the observers (Allen Poynter and the authors) made detailed notes on the bird in the field, upon which the description below is based, but no photographs could be obtained. Although the area was searched intensively by birders during the next week, the redstart could not be found on subsequent dates.

The bird was mainly black, with large white patches in the wings. The tail showed very conspicuous white sides. The lower breast was a deep rose-pink, and the abdomen and undertail coverts were white. The bill was slender, black, and sharp-pointed. A white spot below the eye was noticeable. The size was estimated as less than 15 cm long, but larger than a chickadee. The redstart's behavior seemed typical for the species; it repeatedly fanned the tail and moved about with half-open wings, hopping usually along branches rather than sideways from branch to branch. The bird was associated with a small flock of Black-capped and Chestnut-backed chickadees (*Parus atricapillus* and *P. rufescens*), Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus satrapa*), and Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) which were moving through a small patch of mixed forest consisting largely of Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*), Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*), and Broadleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*). It foraged mainly in the lower branches, and was seen as close as 5 to 6 m with 7x and 10x binoculars. At least one of the observers (Wayne C. Weber) has had previous field experience with the species in Arizona.

Copies of the original field descriptions are on file at the British Columbia Provincial Museum in Victoria. Mr. R. Wayne Campbell, Assistant Curator of Birds and Mammals at the museum, who is currently updating the checklist of British Columbia birds, tells us that he considers the evidence acceptable for the inclusion of the Painted Redstart on the provincial list.

This is the first record of the Painted Redstart in British Columbia, and the second in Canada. The appearance of the species in late fall near Vancouver is difficult to explain, particularly since there appear to be no records for Washington or Oregon. The normal range is from Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas south to Nicaragua (American Ornithologists' Union, Check-list of North American birds, 1957). There are numerous recent records from southern California, including a nesting record (Unitt, *Western Birds* 5:94-96, 1974), and there are also a number of extralimital records of the species in eastern North America. The only previous Painted Redstart record for Canada was a bird at Pickering, Ontario (Speirs and Pegg, *Auk* 89:898, 1972) which was first seen, by coincidence, exactly two years before the Vancouver bird (on 4 November 1971) and was later captured and photographed. Speirs and Pegg also mention three records in the northeastern United States, from Marblehead Neck, Massachusetts; Madison, Wisconsin; and near Cleveland, Ohio. It seems worth noting that, of these four northeastern sightings, three were in October and November.

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