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## News, Notes, Comments

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### Painted Buntings: Third oldest male (9 years 0 months)

On 15 May 2009, I conducted a banding demonstration using two standard 12-m nets for a group of Montessori School students on the Bayou Pierre Unit of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge (RRNWR) in Red River Parish near Grand Bayou, Louisiana (32° 06' 44' N, 93° 28' 00' W). I captured six birds including an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), Eastern Wood-pewee (*Contopus virens*), Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), and the ASY-M Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*, 1831-02018). This was the only banding event at this location in 2009.

In 2011, I established a MAPS station at the same location. On 2 June 2016, I recaptured this same male Painted Bunting during the MAPS banding session in a net about 100 m north of the net in which he was captured in 2009. None of the other five birds banded in 2009 have been recaptured. Assuming a hatch date of June 2007 (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/MANUAL/hss.htm>), this male was at least 9 years 0 months old at recapture, making him the third oldest male and fourth oldest Painted Bunting of either sex ([http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/longevity/Longevity\\_main.cfm](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/longevity/Longevity_main.cfm), accessed 7 October 2016).

This unit of RRNWR consisted of early successional habitat resulting from reforestation of former row crop fields with oaks (*Quercus* spp.), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), and American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) between 2004 and 2008. In 2011, tree canopy cover was about 30% and canopy height was about 15 m. The shrub layer was comprised mostly of saltbush (*Baccharis halimifolia*) and ground layer was mostly grasses and *Rudbeckia* spp., *Solidago* spp., and trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*).

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### Notice to Virginia Banders

We are measuring the level of interest in forming a Virginia Bird Banders Association that would be open to all bird banders, ornithological researchers, and others to unite for the advancement of ornithological research through:

- Establishing a rapport with the permitting office at Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
- Providing a forum for sharing banding and other ornithological research techniques.
- Discussing any complications members experience with State or Federal permitting offices.
- Encouraging cooperation between members and universities, foundations, other organizations to work together on ornithological projects.

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Downy Woodpecker  
by George West