

TABLE 1
BILL LENGTH OF HOUSE SPARROWS
(MEAN PLUS STANDARD ERROR)

Sex	August	October
Female	9.42 ± 0.122 (6) *	9.27 ± 0.100 (12)
Male	9.44 ± 0.053 (7)	9.04 ± 0.104 (9)

* Sample size.

Furthermore, absence of differences in bill length that are related to sex supports earlier contentions that North American House Sparrows have not undergone evolutionary change effecting a partitioning of the food niche (Packard, 1967. *Syst. Zool.*, 16:73-89; Selander and Johnston, op. cit.). Presumably, failure of House Sparrows to experience evolutionary change of this sort is related to their exploitation of an abundant and diverse food source, thereby obviating specialization of bill structure for restricted food sources (Selander, 1966, *Condor*, 68:113-151).—GARY C. PACKARD, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C., 9 September 1966.*

Unusual activities of a House Sparrow and a Blue Jay at a Tufted Titmouse nest.—A Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) pair nested in a Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) nest box in my yard at Pennington, N.J. On the morning of 4 July 1965 the titmouse young were fed by a female House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) on three occasions within a 40-minute period. She was also making frequent feeding flights to her nestlings in a bird house 17 ft. away. The titmouse pair protested noisily by scolding and diving and once successfully drove her away.

The following morning (5 July) as I watched closely to see if the sparrow would return, a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) flew to the titmouse nest box just as an adult titmouse left, perched on the lower rim of the nest hole, pushed its head and neck well into the nest box and pecked eight times at the nest contents. Then it perched a few moments on an adjacent branch, 10 inches away, before returning to peer in the nest box and poke at the nestlings. Once again it perched on the branch, returned, and poked into the nest box. The jay did not taken anything from the nest. Although the titmouse pair protested noisily by scolding and diving at the jay as it perched on and near the nest box, they did not deter the jay. The entire incident took nine minutes.

Twenty-nine minutes later a jay (same?) flew to the nest box, thrust its head and neck into the box as before, poking three times at the contents before leaving slowly up through the nest tree, branch by branch.

The design of the box was such that it was 8½ inches deep in front but only 8 inches at the back with the almost-square interior 5 inches wide. The nest rim was approximately 3½ inches below the box entrance hole and it seems possible that the jay could have reached the nestlings.

There were ample auditory and visual cues to the nest's location for a potential predator. The titmouse nestlings were very noisy when fed by the adults and at times the nestlings continued calling after the feedings. Moreover, the adults generally flew directly to the nest box hole with food.

The four titmouse nestlings fledged on 5 July. I was unable to determine if the nestlings were injured by the jay's thrusts. Inspection of the nest and box disclosed no signs of blood.—KENNETH W. PRESCOTT, *New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey, 24 May 1966.*

Extralimital breeding of Painted Buntings in Florida.—On 8 July, 1966, two singing male Painted Buntings (*Passerina ciris*) were found on the northeastern outskirts of Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida. The buntings were adjacent to the Apalachicola River, about one-half mile from the Gulf coast, in an open growth of willow (*Salix* sp.), chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), and wax-myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), with a thick understory, predominately of blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) and sesbania (*Sesbania* sp.). On a second trip to the area on 29 July, 1966, two males were again singing, and a third male, also in song, was located nearby in similar habitat. Breeding was suspected when two juveniles were located near the third male. They were actively fed by a dull, female-like bunting, showing faint reddish on its underparts.

This small colony at Apalachicola is located near the center of a hiatus in the Painted Bunting's breeding range; a 400 mile break between southern Alabama (Mobile County: Imhof, 1962. "Alabama Birds") and coastal portions of eastern Georgia and northeastern Florida (Burleigh, 1958. "Georgia Birds"; Sprunt, 1954. "Florida Bird Life"). The absence of breeding buntings in Florida portions of this hiatus has been corroborated at Pensacola by Weston (1965. A Survey of the Birdlife of Northwestern Florida, Bull. Tall Timbers Research Station, No. 5. Tallahassee.), and throughout the interior and Gulf coastal regions of North Florida by H. M. Stevenson and his workers during recent state-wide field investigations of breeding birds. No Painted Buntings were found at Apalachicola during previous summers (Stevenson, personal communication), however, two summer records near Tallahassee, in 1962 and 1966 (Robertson, 1962. *Audubon Field Notes*, 16:47; Stevenson, 1966. *Audubon Field Notes*, 20:564), of single, singing males, are the first known summer occurrences for that area, and suggest that the appearance of the Painted Buntings at Apalachicola may be part of a trend towards occupation of the hiatus.

The factors which brought about this wide gap in breeding range are not understood. Suitable breeding habitat appears to exist throughout the range-gap, and migrant Painted Buntings are regularly found in small numbers along the northeast Gulf coast in spring, adjacent to the unoccupied area. The presence of these migrant buntings along the coast may be due to displacement of trans-gulf migrants by weather associated with northwesterly cold fronts crossing the Gulf of Mexico. The possibility that such displacement resulted in the establishment of the colony in Franklin County, Florida, seems good. Several cold fronts did cross the Gulf during April and May, 1966, resulting in eastward displacement of trans-gulf and western migrants (Cunningham, 1966. *Audubon Field Notes*, 20:497). An area-wide field count on 22 April, 1966, in Franklin and adjacent Wakulla Counties, produced 13 Painted Buntings, second highest number in the history of spring counts in these counties, and buntings at Alligator Point, Franklin County, on 7 May, and at Pensacola on 11 May, were the latest or equaled previous late spring records for those two areas respectively (Cunningham, (loc. cit.); Imhof, 1966. *Audubon Field Notes*, 20:518).—JOHN C. OGDEN AND FRANK L. CHAPMAN, *Department of Biological Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, 1 September 1966.*