

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.*