

Appalachian Mountains. Apparently, however, individuals of the species do on occasions cross the Blue Ridge, presumably from the piedmont population immediately to the east and south. The present records and those by Cairns in 1893-1894 indicate that these invasions occur during the winter months, possibly in response to population pressures and inadequate food supply in the piedmont. Interestingly, the first record of the species for the state of Tennessee came at Collegedale, where Basham (1969) noted the birds present from 14 December 1969 to 4 May 1970; and it was during this same winter season that my observation of the bird at Bent Creek marked the first record of the species from the southern Appalachians since 1894. This coincidence of dates suggests that sporadic winter movements of the species to the north and west may be responsible for the occurrence of the bird in the interior river valleys of the Appalachian Mountains. Furthermore, John Cairns' observations in the 1890s indicated that these invading birds lingered in the area and nested during the following breeding season. Unfortunately, Cairns' death in 1895 precluded any further notes on the fate of this population; but their subsequent absence from the region suggests that ecological conditions were not favorable to their perpetuation in the interior basins, which are over 1,000 feet higher than the piedmont plateau to the east of the Blue Ridge escarpment. Nevertheless, the recent winter records of the species in Buncombe County should alert local observers to the possibility of additional sightings and subsequent nesting in the extensive pine forests of the French Broad River valley and its tributaries.

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Painted Bunting at Clinton, S. C.

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During a 3-week period in the spring of 1972 a male Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) visited a feeding station in Clinton, S. C., on at least four occasions. The observation distance, 4 feet, allowed positive identification on all sightings, which were on 16, 25, and 26 April and 8 May. On 26 April Jane P. Holt, Biology Department, Presbyterian College, and Mrs. Ira D. Holt of Clinton verified our identification.

The presence of a Painted Bunting in piedmont South Carolina, approximately 65 miles NW of Columbia, is unusual. Sprunt and Chamberlain (*South Carolina Bird Life*, 1970) note that the species rarely penetrates beyond the fall line. The lack of nesting activities and the absence of a female suggest that the sightings were of a transient individual.

[The spring bird count for Stanly County, N. C., (*Chat*, 35:82) records the presence of a pair of Painted Buntings in piedmont North Carolina on 24 April 1971.—JRH]