

Harbor Island, Naturally

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A PERSONAL PROJECT OF JOHN ALBERT

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Male



Female or Juvenile

HELPING PAINTED BUNTINGS

BUNTING BANDING

My wife Sarah and I attended a Painted Bunting program at Hunting Island two weeks ago.



The Painted Bunting Observation Team from the University of North Carolina Wilmington was making their yearly banding visit to the Low Country. After a discussion of the biology of Buntings, *Passerina ciris*, the team

PHOTOS BY JOHN ALBERT

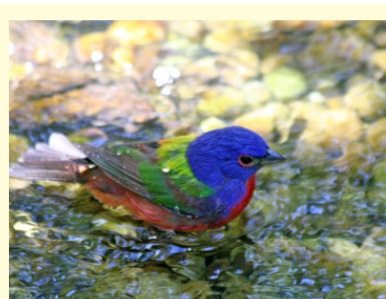
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members explained how to attract these birds to our backyards. White millet, a source of water, and feeders that exclude larger birds are quite useful.

The banding program was explained, including the meaning of the various colors of bands in use.

Anyone who sights Painted Buntings can report them on the PBOT website. The site also has more information on the birds and the program.

www.paintedbuntings.org/bios.



We then moved outside to see if we could catch some birds to band. Using a cage trap one male was caught and carefully banded. We all left with a better appreciation of how the program works.

I suspect that several of the attendees will be shopping for white millet.



Sources: www.paintedbuntings.org/bios