



AVIAN NEST SURVEY AND ASSOCIATED HABITAT ASSESSMENT AT
TIMBERLAKE BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION

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Over the past few decades, North American migratory bird populations have been on the decline, primarily due to habitat loss and fragmentation. While habitat fragmentation is generally considered detrimental, some species such as the Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) and Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) actually benefit from the associated increase in edge habitat by using these fragmented areas for territories and nesting sites. With a mixture of heavily wooded, open grassland, riparian, and upland areas, Timberlake Biological Field Station in Mills County Texas represents an area with a wide range of edge habitats. To investigate how birds use these habitats we conducted a nest survey and a general bird survey in June and July 2021 to gather baseline data on what birds could be found and are thriving at Timberlake. 27 total species of birds were identified during the survey as well as a total of 18 nests, of which 3 were active (one Northern Cardinal nest and 2 Painted Bunting nests). The predominate trees the nests were found in were persimmons, white brush, cedar elm, and gum bumelia. The average height of the substrate in which nests were found was 4.49 m and the average height of the nests was 1.99 m. The results indicated that most of the nests were found along the transition from native grassland habitats to riparian woodlands.