

## GENERAL NOTES

HOUSE FINCH (*CARPODACUS MEXICANUS*) NESTING IN SPANISH MOSS ON LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND --- Since it first arrived in Georgia over 4 decades ago (Einhorn 1970), the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) has proven to be a very adaptable and resourceful species. Its nesting distribution has spread throughout much of the state, although there are no records of the species' occurrence for much of the Lower Coastal Plain, as well as for most of the undeveloped barrier islands (Klaus 2010).

On 23 April 2013, the senior author observed a pair of House Finches carrying nesting material into a clump of Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) that was hanging from a Live Oak tree (*Quercus virginiana*). This tree was located in the housing complex on Little St. Simons Island (Glynn County). The following day all 3 authors visited the site to confirm that the birds were indeed nest building in the Spanish Moss. Soon after we arrived at the site we observed the pair. The female was carrying fine grass-like nesting material in her bill and quickly flew into the moss clump and remained there for several minutes, exiting without the nesting material. This pair was observed at the nest a few days after the initial sightings, but no additional effort was made to track the success of this nest after this point, so the ultimate fate of the nest was unknown.

While House Finches are known to use a wide variety of materials, including Spanish Moss, in construction of their nests (Hill 1993, Anderson 2005), there are only a few reports (from Florida) of this species nesting within clumps of Spanish Moss. As far as we know, there are no previous reports of this nesting behavior in Georgia. Given the wide variety of nest sites they normally use and the adaptability of this species, it is not surprising to find them nesting in Spanish Moss in Georgia.

## Literature Cited

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