

The Bobolink on the Coast of South Carolina.—I regret the misapprehension of my meaning that led to the criticism in the last number of 'The Auk,' p. 179, and the possible inference that I am careless as to my statement of facts. I intended simply to say that the Bobolink in the interior of the State (Chester County) was abundant only in the spring. It did not occur to me that the expression would be interpreted differently, as abundance on the South Carolina coast, in the northward as well as the southward migration, belongs to the common stock of ornithological knowledge of which I could hardly be supposed to be ignorant.—
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An Ingenious Pair of House Finches (*Carpodacus frontalis*)—It is generally believed that birds construct their nests year after year and generation after generation after the same plan. There are few observers, however, whose experience does not furnish illustrations of the fact that individual birds are capable of departing from the nest building methods acquired by inheritance, and of resorting to new and ingenious expedients. The following is a case in point, and I am much mistaken if the reader does not conclude that the nest-builders in question possessed a considerable degree of reasoning power as well as of ingenuity.

A pair of California House Finches (*Carpodacus frontalis*) built a nest in the corner of the piazza of a country store. So tame and confiding have these pretty Finches become that I am persuaded that the larger proportion of their nests are built, not in trees and bushes as formerly, but in all sorts of odd nooks and crannies about the house and barn; and even when they are compelled by the lack of facilities to resort to bushes and shrubbery, they choose those as close to the house as possible.

The pertinacity with which the House Finch clings to a chosen nook about a house when their nests are destroyed is amazing, and is equalled only by the English Sparrow. I have known five nests with their contents to be destroyed one after another, and each time the same pair set to work with apparent unconcern to build anew.

But to return to my nest. The proprietor of the store called attention to it, suggesting that if it was of any use to me I had better take it as he was about to destroy it for the reason that the finches were an unmitigated pest in the orchard. This statement, I grieve to say, there is too much reason to believe is true. And great is the pity, for its beautiful song, domestic habits, and pretty plumage give it a place occupied by no other American bird.

Viewed from below, the nest was seen to be balanced rather than firmly placed upon a narrow joist, and I was at a loss to comprehend how it was maintained there even in calm weather, to say nothing of the high winds that prevail in this locality. By means of a step-ladder I was soon able to solve the problem. Having about one-half finished the structure, the birds evidently recognized the insecurity of its position, and the location being in every other respect eligible they hit upon the following remedy.