

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Misapplied Perseverance.—On the west porch of our house in Colorado Springs is an awning, extending along the front for fifteen feet. This is taken down every fall and put up again in the spring. It is the ordinary type of awning on an iron frame which can be pulled up against the side of the house by cords. By an odd coincidence it was put up for the season in 1924, and again in 1926, each time on the 5th of May. House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) seem to think this is put up for their convenience as a roosting place at night, and they sometimes attempt to nest in it. This note deals with two of these attempts.

The first was in 1924. My notes of May 24 say that for several days previously, perhaps two weeks, sparrows had been trying to build a nest in this awning, and that I had dumped the nearly finished nests two or three times by letting down the awning. It should be stated that this is not done daily at this season. On the 23rd, when the awning was dropped, there was a nest with three fresh eggs. Evidently the awning had not been down for several days. The morning of the 24th a broken egg was found on a step below the awning. Apparently the bird had had nowhere else to go and had laid it in the awning. The afternoon of the 25th another half-completed nest was dumped, and on the 26th I saw the birds carrying nesting material to the place. A nearly completed nest was dropped out on the 28th. On June 2 I destroyed another nest, with three fresh eggs, in the awning. This nest must have been built in a great hurry, or the bird must have begun to lay before it was completed; for the first egg could have been laid not later than the 31st, with the rest laid at the rate of one egg a day. This did not give much more than two days for the building of the new nest. On June 4 another nest had been begun, and on the 6th still another almost completed one was destroyed. On the 7th there was a little nesting material on the awning, and a practically completed nest was destroyed on the 10th. A fresh egg of a sparrow was found on the lawn in front of the house on the 13th; this possibly had been dropped by the same bird which had been trying to nest. There was nothing doing for some time after this, but on the 22nd more dry grass fell when the awning dropped. Apparently the birds were trying it again. We went away for the summer a day or two after this, and the house was rented. I do not know if the tenants had any trouble with the birds.

We had no trouble in 1925. We were in the house until the middle of June, and then went away. In the spring of 1926 the sparrows made no attempt to build in the awning; but about the first of August, or before that date, a pair began to nest there, despite the fact that the awning was dropped early every afternoon and usually remained down until after six o'clock. On the 2nd two eggs fell out and were of course broken. It is something of a puzzle as to when those two eggs were laid—one possibly the night before and the other the next morning, unless there were two females. Another egg fell out on the fourth. A nest had been started on the fifth, and this seems to have been the last attempt, for there was nothing more after that date. A broken egg was found on the walk in front of the house at this time. The various nests were constructed of grass and straws, and those nearest completion would have some feathers in them.

One cannot help admiring the perseverance of these birds in trying to nest under such adverse conditions, but in both years it seems to have taken some little time to show them how futile were their efforts. They had to have a lot of experience to teach them.—EDWARD R. WARREN, *Colorado Springs, Colorado, August 17, 1926.*

A Southern Race of the Fan-tailed Warbler¹.—A series of fan-tailed warblers collected by the junior writer in Salvador in 1925 and 1926 differs in several respects from *Euthlypis lachrymosa lachrymosa* Cabanis of southern Mexico and from *Euthlypis lachrymosa tephra* Ridgway of northwestern Mexico. These southern Pacific coast birds are characterized as follows:

Euthlypis lachrymosa schistacea, subsp. nov.

Southern Fan-tailed Warbler

Type.—Male adult; no. 17,404, collection of Donald R. Dickey; Pine Peaks, Volcan Conchagua, Salvador; altitude 3,000 feet; February 27, 1926; collected by A. J. van Rossem; original no. 10,478.

¹ Contribution from the California Institute of Technology.