

*hyemalis*, taken at Metlatavik, June 30, 1928, contained three eggs which seemed to be those of a merganser.)

Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*), set of four with down and female, collected on the Opkawaruk River, June 24, 1928.

These eggs are now in the collection of Mr. Wilson C. Hanna of Colton, California. Among the bird skins received were:

Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*), juvenile, collected at Wales, July 30, 1928. (First record from Wales.)

Asiatic Pintail (*Dafila acuta acuta*), female, collected at Wales, July 30, 1928.

American Scoter (*Oidemia americana*), male and female, collected at Wales, July 24, 1928.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), female, collected at Wales, June 12, 1928.

I am indebted to Dr. H. C. Oberholser for identifying the pintail and immature swallow.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Illinois, May 10, 1929.*

**House Finch Vacillation.**—On March 31, 1929, a pair of House Finches (*Carduelis mexicanus frontalis*) began to examine, for nesting purposes, a roomy fold in the awning on a cabin which I was occupying at Cragmor, El Paso County, Colorado. During the winter a male House Finch had slept in the awning, but his roost was entered from the outside, whereas the prospective nesting chamber was reached by climbing in behind the awning. However, I assumed that the male of the pair was probably the bird which had become familiar with the awning by use.

During the first days of April the pair made increasingly numerous visits to the awning, and on April 12 began to carry building materials to their chosen spot. It happened that I was confined by illness to the screened porch upon which the awning was hung, and I looked forward to enjoying an intimate view of the finches' domestic affairs—virtually in cross section, as the nest was being built between the fly-screen and the canvas. I determined that I would gladly keep the awning hoisted up, as long as the birds wanted to use it. April 15 was the day of greatest building activity, material being lodged in the fold to a depth of at least six inches, in spite of the fact that much of it fell out at the bottom as fast as it was brought. On that day, too, I saw the pair mating in a neighboring tree, and saw the male feed the female. The female did by far the greater share of material-carrying.

Although the site was at best a poor one, on account of its "leaky" bottom, its sponsors valiantly protected it against the inquisitiveness of other house finches and of some English Sparrows, one of which, seeing the nesting material being carried in, himself climbed into the cavity to have a look. However, the following day building operations were only half-hearted, and then they ceased entirely. Within a short time all the material had dribbled away and the place was completely empty. Nevertheless, for the next six weeks the finches—male, female or both—visited the spot almost daily. To reach the nest fold was not altogether an easy matter, as it necessitated alighting in a clinging position upon the vertical fly-screen, "hitching" upward behind the awning and hopping into the cavity. Until May 25, when I left the cabin, the finches visited the awning on 27 of the days; and I learned from the next occupant that they came even after that date.

The birds had no set time for their visits, sometimes arriving as early as 5:15 a. m., on other days late in the afternoon. On certain dates, notably May 12 and 14, my notes indicate that "both finches came frequently throughout the day." The male had a habit, as he stood in the cavity, of uttering little phrases of song. During the first few days of these unproductive visits, I supposed that the birds were undecided whether to renew nesting operations at this site. But their continuance, as mere "calls," week after week, at a time when all house finches were obviously nesting and this pair presumably had an occupied home elsewhere, puzzled me. It would seem that these birds had formed such an attachment for the location of their first choice that, even when they had abandoned it as a nest-site, they were instinctively drawn back to it long after they had established a household elsewhere.—CLINTON G. ABBOTT, *San Diego Society of Natural History, San Diego, California, June 26, 1929.*