thickness. This was to be the end of my search on this trip, as night was fast approaching and a rising north wind had put huge breakers between myself and the mainland. Exposed on a cushion of dry grass, lay a pink-colored egg, so fresh that the shell was transparent. Two inches away, crouched, with head hidden in a crevice, was a beautiful Fork-tailed Petrel. This proved to be the male bird, engaged in incubating, as shown by the warmth of the egg.—C. I. CLAY, *Eureka, California, April 5, 1925.*

The House Finch in the Oklahoma Panhandle.—Extension of the breeding range of any species of bird is frequently an event of much interest to ornithologists residing at a considerable distance from the region where the change has taken place. It is for this reason that I take pleasure in reporting the fact that during the past three years House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) have become year-around residents in the northwest corner of Cimarron County, which is the extreme western county of the Oklahoma panhandle. This is an extension of their former range, in a southeasterly direction, a distance of approximately forty miles. Prior to 1922 the southeastern limits of their breeding range had been in the neighborhood of West Carrizo Creek, in Las Animas County, Colorado. The first record of the species in Cimarron County was in the summer of 1919, when several non-breeding birds were observed about six miles northwest of the inland town of Kenton.

These finches, a majority of which were males, and which numbered less than a dozen all told, were found in a cottonwood grove on North Carrizo Creek (tributary to the Cimarron River). This grove is situated about two miles south of the Colorado line and a mile east of the New Mexico line, well within the boundaries of Oklahoma. E. Paul Rothrock, at that time with the Oklahoma Geological Survey, first reported the presence of the finches in the region. During a portion of June and July, 1919, he was encamped at the grove in company with his wife, who was deeply interested in ornithology. As Rothrock's particular mission in that locality was to study the geological formations and take notes on the animal and bird life, the discovery of a bird hitherto unknown in the state interested him exceedingly. He observed the finches closely almost daily for two or three weeks, and learned many things about their habits and mode of living, but never found a single nest, or saw any but the dozen or so birds in the grove.

In 1920 and 1921 I observed a number of these finches near Kenton, and in the winter of 1921-22 they were numerous in the town itself. From that time on they have been present in large numbers the year around. The first nests were seen in this locality in the summer of 1922. In 1923 I found six on a two-acre tract of land on the outskirts of Kenton, and in 1924 there were eleven nests on this same tract. That same year, too, a pair of the birds had a nest in a small locust tree which grew in one corner of my yard in the residence section of the town. It was on June 11, 1924, that I first saw the nest in my yard. The black locust in which it was located measured a bit over eight feet in height and was surrounded by tall rose bushes. The nest was composed of tightly woven grass stems and plant fibers. It was cup shaped and rested in the forks of an upright branch about seven feet above the ground. At the time of my first visit the nest contained five eggs, four of which were apparently well incubated. Two days later one of the eggs had disappeared. The four remaining eggs hatched on June 20, and the fledglings made an extremely rapid growth, deserting the nest on July 12.

At the present time the southeastern limits of the House Finch's range in this region seems to be about nine miles southeast of Kenton. There were a few scattering nests out that far in that direction last summer, and a number of the birds have spent the past winter around the ranch houses in that same locality.—RALPH C. TATE, *Kenton, Oklahoma, April 17, 1925.*

The Status of the San Clemente House Finch.—For some years past, the standing of *Carpodacus mexicanus clementis* Mearns has suffered assault by various writers, at least some of whom do not seem to have comprehended, or have misinterpreted, the differences between linnets inhabiting the various islands and the mainland. The writer at one time confessedly inclined toward the same opinion, namely, that the island race

was founded upon characters too intangible for recognition by name. However, after examination of good series from most of the islands and a very large series from the mainland it seems apparent that the recently proposed "elimination" of *clementis*[1] was not well considered. There is considerable individual variation in this species and the differences between *clementis* and the mainland *frontalis* become apparent only when good series are compared. The following points will bear emphasis.

The extent of red or yellow on the males, the proportion of red to yellow males, and the measurements of wing and tail in either sex are all items to which no diagnostic value can be attached. The tarsi and feet of *clementis* are slightly heavier in appearance but are not longer than in *frontalis*, and, considering the variation displayed, this tendency will not bear stressing. The characters which appear to provide the most secure basis for differentiating the island race are the decidedly heavier bill, the intensity or brilliancy of coloration in the males and the heavier streaking of the females.

Specimens have been examined from Los Coronados Islands (8), San Clemente Island (61), Santa Catalina Island (13), Santa Barbara Island (7), Santa Cruz Island (28), Anacapa Island (2), San Miguel Island (1), mainland of California (151). On the basis of the above series I should divide the island linnets as follows:

Clementis, best development: San Clemente and Santa Barbara islands.

Clementis, intermediate toward *frontalis*: Los Coronados and Santa Catalina islands.

Frontalis, occasionally intermediate toward *clementis*: Santa Cruz, Anacapa and San Miguel islands. This form is most probably the one which occurs on Santa Rosa Island also.

These conclusions (with minor differences which probably result from the use of different series) are essentially the same as those reached by Dr. Joseph Grinnell.[2] I offer them simply as a "counter irritant" for the proposed elimination,—which proposal it may be pointed out was not based on a first-hand study of the case insofar as can be ascertained from the text.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, May 20, 1925.*

Winter Birds Seen at the Grand Canyon, Arizona.—In the CONDOR of March, 1920 (XXII, pp. 79-80), H. S. and Winifern W. Swarth reported the birds seen by them at the Grand Canyon in three days, December 18 to 20, 1919. I spent nine days there, December 3 to 12, 1924, exploring the rim on foot in each direction for eight miles, traversing the Bright Angel Trail on mule-back and the Hermit Trail on foot, and spending two nights and a day at the foot of Hermit Trail.

The temperature at the rim during these nine days varied from 13° to 45° F. The weather was fine with the exception of three days when it snowed hard, a total snow precipitation of 19.8 inches. About 3500 feet below the rim, there was rain, and the temperature averaged 20° higher, although there was a slight frost both nights that I spent at Hermit Creek Camp.

In the following list I have marked with an asterisk the species that are not included in the Swarth list. The birds seen by them that I failed to observe were: Eastern Goshawk, Cactus Woodpecker, Slate-colored Junco, and Bohemian Waxwing.

**Accipiter velox.* Sharp-shinned Hawk. A single bird was seen on two different days close to the rim, and one near Hermit Creek Camp, 4000 feet below the rim.

Dryobates villosus monticola. Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker. Several seen above the rim.

Colaptes cafer collaris. Red-shafted Flicker. One seen above the rim.

**Sayornis sayus.* Say Phoebe. One seen in Hermit Creek Canyon.

Cyanocitta stelleri diademata. Long-crested Jay. Several above the rim.

Aphelocoma woodhousei. Woodhouse Jay. Two or three above the rim.

Nucifraga columbiana. Clark Nutcracker. Although I did not observe this bird myself, it was seen and described so accurately by an acquaintance at the hotel that I have included it here. The Swarths saw several.

Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus. Pinyon Jay. Single birds and a flock of twenty at the rim and a few seen on Tonto Trail near Hermit Creek Camp.

[1] Dawson, Birds of California, 1923, p. 213.

[2] Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 11, 1915, pp. 107-108.