
A Tree Swallow foundling — On Sunday afternoon, June 23, 1957, I was given a nest containing five hungry young Tree Swallows. The parents had not been seen feeding them at all that day. The nest had been in a mailbox at the edge of a well-traveled road, and the parents may have been killed or caused to abandon the nest. The young Tree Swallows eagerly took bits of raw beef and, for variety, a drop of milk, an insect, some boiled egg or a little cottage cheese.

Although the weather was very hot, it was not possible to keep the birds warm at night and by Tuesday two were dead. The next morning only the largest one was alive. This bird was then banded and placed in another Tree Swallow nest, and it was apparently cared for by its foster parents. One young bird stayed in this nest two days after the others left and was last seen on Monday, July 1. No trace of a dead bird or the band was found in or about the nest, and so it seems likely that the little Tree Swallow lived to fly away from its adopted home. — Frank A. Clinch,
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