

**Three Bird Species Use Same Nest During One Breeding Season.** One objective in a study assessing the effects of an aerially-applied pesticide on bird populations was to locate active bird nests and then determine the outcome of these nesting attempts. A Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) had built its nest on a horizontal, wooden, electric light brace at a height of 12 feet above the ground and six inches from the ceiling in an open-fronted teaching shelter. The shelter is part of the Wel-Met Camp system, 1.5 miles north of Minisink Ford in southern Sullivan County, New York. Incubation was underway when the nest was found 12 May 1972. All four eggs hatched 12 or 13 May, and four young left the nest 27 May.

When I re-visited the shelter 4 June, a Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) flew from the building. Pellets of mud had been placed on the exterior of the used Robin's nest, and it now was lined with feathers. The nest contained one Barn Swallow egg. The adult was incubating three eggs 13 June and two eggs 20 June.

When the nest site was checked 27 June, I observed that the nest was remodeled again. Twigs of various lengths filled the distance between the top of the mud-pelleted nest and the shelter ceiling. The nest contained five House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) eggs placed on a very thin layer of hair, grass, and spider cocoons. Underneath this lining one Barn Swallow egg remained. The displaced pair of swallows were building a new nest on the neighboring light brace 15 feet away. The House Wren frequently uses old nests of other species, including the Barn Swallow. In addition, A. C. Bent (1948, Life Histories of North American Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrashers, and Their Allies, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 195-118-119) cites an instance in which House Wrens completed in a bird house a nest which House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) had initially started. Both species laid eggs that were incubated by the sparrow.

Both the House Wren and the Barn Swallow were successful in raising young. Five wrens fledged and four swallows were raised in their newly constructed nest nearby. The one Barn Swallow egg still remained in the wren nest at the time the five young wrens left their nest.

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**Unusual method of disposal of fecal sacs removed from nest.** In late May, 1970, I noted that Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) were feeding young in a nest in a patch of nettles in the yard of our small tenant house next to our home. While watching the adults in my attempt to discover the nest, I became interested in the method of disposition of the fecal sacs of the young.

About 10-12 feet from the nest was a four-foot high welded wire fence with a mesh measuring 2" x 4". As he bird came from the nest after feeding, it flew directly to the top wire of the fence and carefully placed the small fecal sac on the wire. I observed this several times, and then noted that there were many dried sacs along its length. After the young had left the nest, I counted at least 40 sacs on a 10 foot length of wire, a few being on the second or third wire down instead of the top. I had seen one or two sacs fall and this may account for those on the lower wires.

I find no mention of this type of disposal in Margaret Morse Nice's classic work "Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow", (*Trans. of the Linnaean Society of New York* I and II, 1937, 1943.) She simply indicates that the adults either swallow the sacs or carry them off and drop them, and a recent personal communication from Mrs. Nice confirms this. She says: "Your Song Sparrow parents certainly behaved in a rather unusual way . . . . . evidently (they) got started leaving the sacs in this particular place and through force of habit continued to do so."

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