

Northern Rough-winged Swallow nests in unused Purple Martin house: Our neighbor, A. M. Seymour, Jr., maintains a 12 hole martin house 16 km south of Canandaigua, N.Y., along the west shore of Canandaigua Lake in Ontario County. He notified me that a small strange brownish swallow was occupying their martin house, which had failed to attract martins for two years. When I examined the box from a canoe in the lake on 7 July 1992, I observed a Northern Rough-winged Swallow entering and leaving the center hole of three in the lower tier of openings. Another bird, obviously the other member of the pair, was annoyed at my presence as I paddled within 10 meters of the box. This behavior indicated that the birds were feeding small young. I returned to the area on 14 July. There was no activity around the martin house. On 3 October 1992 I helped Seymour lower the martin house. I collected the nest and observed that adjacent nest openings held smaller amounts of dried leaves and small sticks. The upper tier of openings also contained even smaller amounts of leaves. The main nest was 180 mm X 160 mm X 150 mm, loosely constructed and bulky. The base was made of Red and White Oak (*Quercus rubra* and *Q. alba*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) and willow (*Salix* sp.) leaves; the outside bowl consisted of small twigs and leaf petioles, the inside bowl of grass culms and smaller twigs; pieces of bark and snail shells were worked into the mass. Small bird droppings were left at the edge of the nest bowl but no egg fragments or feather scales were present. There was a small amount of mammalian fecal matter in the nest bowl. The composition of the nest and the adjacent unfinished nests are similar to those previously described (Lunk, W.A. 1962. The Rough-winged Swallow: a study based on its breeding biology in Michigan. *Publication of the Nuttall Ornithological Club* No. 4, Cambridge, MA). In former years, this swallow has nested in fissures of loose shale cliffs not more than 30 m from the martin house. With the loss of Purple Martin from the area, apparently this pair decided to use the martin house instead of a shale fissure for nesting. Although Lunk describes many nest sites and describes an artificial tube to facilitate study of its life history, he wrote that, "no previously published accounts of Rough-wings nesting in any sort of deliberately placed artificial container..." were known to him. The possibility of enticing Rough-winged Swallows into man-made boxes, even somewhat removed from banks and cliffs seems to be worth further experimentation.

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