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Nest appropriation and mate replacement in the Bushtit.—Incidents of nest reuse from season to season and the interspecific appropriation of nests have been reported in several passerines (Bourke 1942, Emu 41: 277-279; Favaloro 1942, Emu 41: 268-276), but no records of intraspecific appropriation of active nests exist. The lack of information on this behavior may reflect the difficulties involved in observations rather than its absence in populations. Documentation of intraspecific appropriation requires large numbers of known individuals and careful observation.

A study of the breeding biology of the Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) near Santa Barbara, California (Ervin 1974, unpubl. Ph.D. Dissertation, Santa Barbara, Univ. California) revealed 13 pair or mate replacements among 179 nests located from 1972 through 1974; 325 birds in the population were color marked for individual identification. During 1974, bands confirmed that a pair had been replaced by new individuals at two nests, while at four nests only one bird had been replaced. I was unable to determine whether a mate or pair replacement had occurred at the remaining seven nests. At least one nest was occupied by two and potentially three pairs during the same season (Table 1, nest 119). Nest 119 was in the same tree as a nest built in 1973 by the marked displacing bird, 189. The original marked bird at nest 119, bird 834, was the offspring of 189 in 1973.

TABLE 1
 NEST AND MATE SWITCHES AT FOUR NESTS¹

Nest	Sex	January 1974				February 1974					
		22	25	28	30	4	6	8	12	21	25
119	M	U	—	U	U	—	—	821	821	A	A
	F	834	—	189	189	—	—	U	U	—	—
121	M	—	U	—	U	U	—	U	—	823	A
	F	—	189	—	189	189	—	189	—	U	—
128	M	—	—	—	U	U	—	—	—	821	821
	F	—	—	—	834	834	—	—	—	834	834
130	M	—	—	—	—	—	832	832	—	832	823
	F	—	—	—	—	—	U	U	—	U	U

¹ U = unmarked individual; A = nest abandoned; blank spaces indicate no observations made.

A minimum of nine nest or mate replacements occurred during construction when pairs returned to a flock for the night (Ervin 1974, loc. cit.). Of the displaced birds, all but one may have been making their first nesting attempt. Of 9 marked, displaced birds 3 were known yearlings, 5 were potential yearlings, and 1 was a known ASY bird. Death of the original individuals or pairs was not a primary factor in replacements as six of nine displaced birds were seen building second nests. Five of the displacing birds had lost their own nests to predators or other disturbance prior to any replacement action.

Evaluation of this behavior must await further study. At this time, differential attachment to a nest site resulting from temporal changes in aggressiveness or previous use of a site (nest 119) are indicated. Predation rate as well as previous experience of individuals may also play a part.

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The breeding status of the Long-billed Curlew in Colorado.—The Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) formerly bred commonly throughout the prairie regions of central North America (Bent 1929), but plowing of the prairies and hunting have considerably reduced the species' breeding range since the mid-19th century (Palmer 1967). They now nest from southern British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba south to Utah, New Mexico, and Texas, having been eliminated from Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota (A.O.U. 1957). In apparent response to the above trend the United States Department of the Interior (1973) placed the northern race, *N. a. parvus*, on its "status-undetermined" list, which means that it "has been suggested as possibly threatened with extinction."

The southern race, *N. a. americanus*, nests from Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, and South Dakota south to Utah, New Mexico, and Texas. Although common in parts of this range, its distribution and abundance throughout its range are poorly documented. Specifically in Colorado, curlews formerly nested regularly on Colorado's eastern prairie and in Middle and South Parks (Bailey and Niedrach 1965) (Fig. 1). E. Sirios

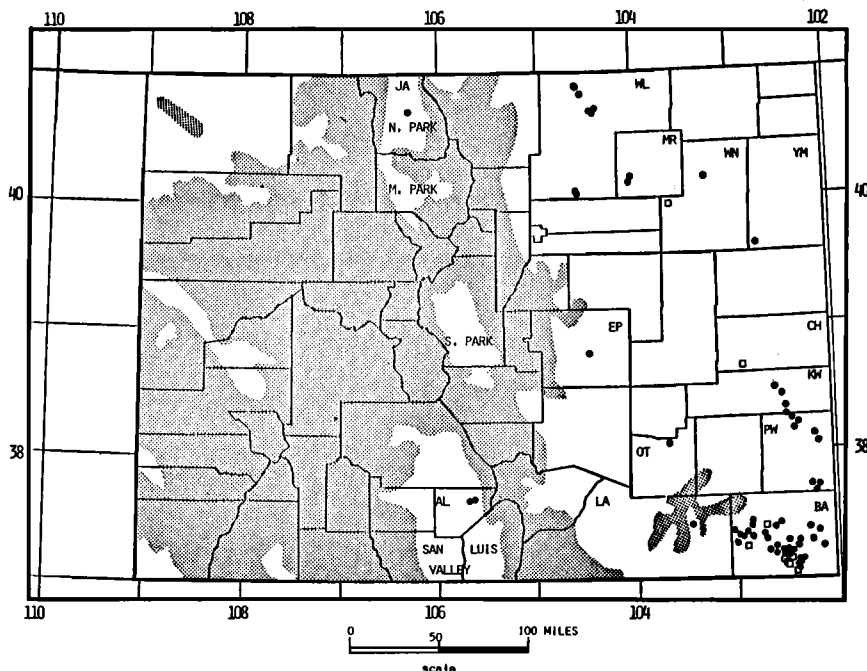


Fig. 1. Long-billed Curlew Breeding Distribution in Colorado, 1974–1975. Solid circles indicate presence of adults during the breeding period (15 May–31 July). Open squares indicate locations where eggs or downy young were seen. County Code: AL, Alamosa; BA, Baca; CH, Cheyenne; EP, El Paso; JA, Jackson; KW, Kiowa; LA, Las Animas; MR, Morgan; OT, Otero; PW, Prowers; WN, Washington; WL, Weld; YM, Yuma. Stippling represents forested or wooded regions unsuitable for curlew nesting habitat.