

At 4:36 p.m., sun-time, after an absence of nine hours and two minutes the female White-wing returned to the nest and immediately attacked the Mourning Dove. Both fought with heads drawn in, tails spread fan-wise, both wings raised, striking with the elbows of the wings. For some two minutes a battle raged, but the greater size of the White-wing prevailed, and the Mourning Dove was driven away. The White-wing settled down upon the nestlings and continued to brood until dark.

Five days later, August 17, Arnold and the writer visited this nest at 9:00 a.m. and found the Mourning Dove again brooding the young White-wings. On August 26 the writer visited the nest again one youngster was gone, but the other and the adult Mourning Dove were perched side by side on a dead branch some 15 feet from the nest and fluttered away together at my approach.

These observations leave much unexplained. Arizona White-winged Doves normally migrate southward by mid-August; possibly the male of this pair had tired of family duties and joined migrating flocks, or he may have been killed. The female appears to have continued to observe normal hours of nest duty for at least a few days, after which she also apparently deserted her brood. The nest of the Mourning Dove containing infertile eggs some 20 feet from the White-wing nest may offer plausible explanation for the maternal instinct of the female Mourning Dove.

On several earlier occasions the writer had observed a White-winged Dove upon a nest only to find a Mourning Dove occupying it on a later visit and then a White-wing at a third visit; inspection had proved the nest to contain young White-winged Doves. Some of these instances may have been further cases of temporary adoption by the Mourning Doves.

Experimental exchange of eggs between nests of Mourning Doves, White-winged Doves, albino aviary doves, and Ring-necked Doves (*Streptopelia risoria*) proved that none rejected either the eggs or the young after they had hatched, even though there was a marked difference in appearance of the newly hatched albino young. Newly-hatched squabs of the Mourning and White-winged doves were also interchanged without ill effect and continued to grow in normal manner. Personal observations and reports from several aviaries in Phoenix also indicate that several species of aviary doves and the Mourning Dove are all quick to adopt or assist in the care of young doves of any species hatched in the aviary cages. Two seasons of study of caged White-wings, however, did not indicate that this species shares that habit.—JOHNSON A. NEFF, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado, May 4, 1944.*

**Kingfisher Nesting Near Whittier, California.**—A pair of Belted Kingfishers (*Megaceryle alcyon*) nested in the Whittier area during May, 1944, and, it is believed, raised at least two young. On May 13, a kingfisher was seen entering a tunnel in a bank along a stream. Several times each day, on May 15, 17, and 19, it was observed carrying fish into the hole. This species is exceptionally shy about the nest, as my first observation disclosed. A male with a good sized fish in his bill perched on a limb above the water at some distance from the tunnel and rattled continuously; not until I moved farther away to an inconspicuous position did he enter with the fish. On May 24 a female and a young bird were observed near the nest, and another individual, presumably a second juvenile, was seen in the mouth of the hole. On May 30 three birds were noted, but after this date no kingfishers were seen about the site. It was not possible to see the nest as a bend occurred in the tunnel about three feet from the entrance. The three birds probably were of the same family as such a pugnacious and solitary species as this would not tolerate the presence of others of its kind. Willett (*Pac. Coast Avif. No. 21, 1933:99*) reports that this species nested in the Whittier area in 1895. Possibly the locality of that record is approximately the same as that reported above. There are several other records for southern California, but the species is sufficiently uncommon, we believe, to deserve this additional notice.—J. H. COMBY, *Whittier, California, December 1, 1944.*

**English Sparrows versus Robins.**—On May 7, 1944, a pair of Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) was discovered to have a nest in a willow, near Reno, Nevada. The nest was apparently completed and ready for eggs, but a pair of English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) repeatedly tried to take possession of the nest, adding loose nest material on top and often successfully driving the robins away. The male sparrow was shot when this had gone on for at least three days. The robins had evidently deserted the nest at about this time, however, and two robin's eggs, one unbroken, were found on the ground below the willow. But the robins were only temporarily defeated, for a few days later they quickly (in a day and a half) made a new nest in a poplar seventy-five feet away. There they raised a brood without incident. Almost certainly this same pair of robins raised a second brood in a third nest built in an adjacent poplar. Loose sparrow nesting material was found in the second nest after the young robins had left.—FRANK RICHARDSON, *University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada, September 20, 1944.*