

how the parents would find it. Without a sound from parent or fledgling, the female flew straight to the latter, fed it, and flew away. The fledgling remained in its place. The female was olive brown above, lighter and lightly streaked below. Her wings and tail were faintly tinged with blue. She had no wing bars. The young resembled the female, but were brighter brown with short tails.

On July 24, we saw the parents together carrying food to three or four young in an alder tree near the road. The next day the family was still in the alders. The male, with a green caterpillar in his beak, flew from the orchard and fed a young bird. We saw the male again on August 1 and nearly every day after that until August 8. He often sang on the wing. Although we visited the locality almost every day until early September, we did not see the buntings after August 8.—H. DEARING and M. DEARING, *Tucson, Arizona, January 25, 1946.*

**Notes on the Purple Martin Roost at Tucson, Arizona.**—Roosting behavior of the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) during the summer and fall of 1943, at Tucson, Arizona, was described by Cater (Condor, 46, 1944:15-18). A careful check of our own notes of the past fourteen years and additional data which we gathered in 1945 reveal that considerable change occurs occasionally in the roost location. Cater reported one such change in 1943, a shift of 1½ miles to the north from the earlier roost.

Our home on Kleindale Road, northeast of Tucson, has been directly in the path of the general evening flight of the martins. In the year 1932 the flight was westward. In 1933 the martins gathered at dusk near Binghampton Pond, 1½ miles east of us, and about 6 miles east of the Santa Cruz River roost of 1943. Presumably they roosted in the vicinity of this pond. Then from 1934 to 1944 the flight was again to the west. (No data are available for 1936, and only the date of first observation was recorded for 1939.)

Apparently, gregarious roosting takes place as soon as the migrants arrive from the south. All martins seen flying by in the evenings in the spring, summer and fall have been in groups of more than two. While we did not obtain exact spring arrival dates, we did record the first evening flights past our home. These range from May 3, in 1940 (also our earliest arrival date), to May 15, in 1938. Probably the average arrival occurs in the first week of May in the Tucson region.

In 1945 the martins were first seen flying west on May 13. We visited the Santa Cruz River area on June 21 and saw perhaps 1000 birds fly to a roost in the cottonwoods at a golf course reservoir. By the first part of August, however, the evening flight reversed to the east. Martins soon began resting on the electric wires in our neighborhood. As many as 1000 were counted on August 25. On August 26 we discovered the roost about one-half mile southeast of our home. It was again in a grove of cottonwoods, but about five miles east of the Santa Cruz River golf course roost.

Evidently the roost consisted only of martins. No other species was noted flying into the trees. However, on September 18, while we watched the martins coming in from the northwest over our house, we discovered a Vaux Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) flying with them. We drove to the roost at once, hoping to locate it again. Scanning the swarm of martins carefully, we finally picked out one or two swifts that kept pace with the rapidly moving circle of birds. Frequently we lost them in the whirling mass overhead. Then, at dusk when the last group of martins flew into the cottonwoods, we suddenly saw five swifts above the trees. They seemed to hesitate a moment, then they took off quickly to the northeast in the direction of the Santa Catalina Mountains, 5 miles away.

In the fall of 1945 there was no general assembly point used by the martins before going to roost. Therefore, we could not estimate accurately the total number. We guessed there were at least 10,000. Those coming from the west and northwest gathered on wires near our home; others, about 2000, flying in from the east were noted one evening on wires a mile to the southeast. Still others flew directly into the swarm above the roost. As the density increased, martins could be seen approaching from the northwest, west, south and east, but not from the north.

In contrast to their behavior in 1943, the martins took much longer to go to roost. At first only a few, 10 or 15 perhaps, appeared above the cottonwoods. These flew without apparent definite order in the area above the roost. Then when one or two hundred arrived, the group began a circular motion which continued as hundreds and thousands more joined it. The motion was chiefly counter clockwise, but when the group strayed off the beat it would sometimes change to clockwise. This often left a straggling, curving tail to the flock, which, in straightening out, resembled the rapid movement of a long "cracked" whip. As dusk approached, this flat horizontal circular swarm of chirping birds gradually settled lower. Soon the leading part of the group poured downward into the top of a cottonwood tree. Often the velocity was so great that the martins piled up on the near side of the tree. Then they rose over the top like a wave, and passed on, drawing some if not most of the first settlers away into the group again. Another circle, then more would detach themselves and disappear into the upper part of the tree. Sometimes three or four distinct groups would each dive in, one after the other. Between each descent the remainder of the flock continued its rapid circular motion just above the trees.

At this later stage, when the "cracking-of-the-whip" maneuver sometimes occurred, the birds often roared through the adjacent telephone and electric power wires, now and then only five feet above the ground. It was remarkable that widespread injuries did not result from collision. Once, as the group streamed past, a martin suddenly darted up from the weeds near-by and joined the flight. It had apparently been stunned and then revived. At another time we found one lying dazed in a road a mile southeast of the roost, where preliminary assembly on electric wires was under way. It did not move when we picked it up; no injury was visible. By this time the martins began to take off for the roost so we drove over, carrying the stunned bird with us. In a few minutes the bird began to struggle and when we reached the vicinity of the roost it squealed loudly in its efforts to escape. We then opened the car window and released it. Immediately the martin flew upward into the whirling flock above the cottonwood trees. Occasionally we found a dead martin beneath the early assembly points.

Group division within the total mass at the roost was evident throughout the fall. The martins arrived in fairly definite groups from different directions. They descended into the roosting tree by groups. Likewise the departure for the south was by groups. After September 30 the number of martins diminished each night and on October 11 only five appeared. None was seen after that date.

Finally it might be emphasized that so far as our observations go, the preliminary evening assembly, when it occurs, has always been upon electric wires. The first military telegraph line reached Tucson in 1873, and it was years later before electric light and power lines were constructed. Previous to this, did the martins gather in trees before going to roost in other trees? Or did they fly directly to their roost?—A. H. ANDERSON and ANNE ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, February 23, 1946.*

**An Unusual Nest of the White-throated Swift.**—While collecting near Shandon, Kern County, California, in the latter part of May, 1945, a nest of the White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes*

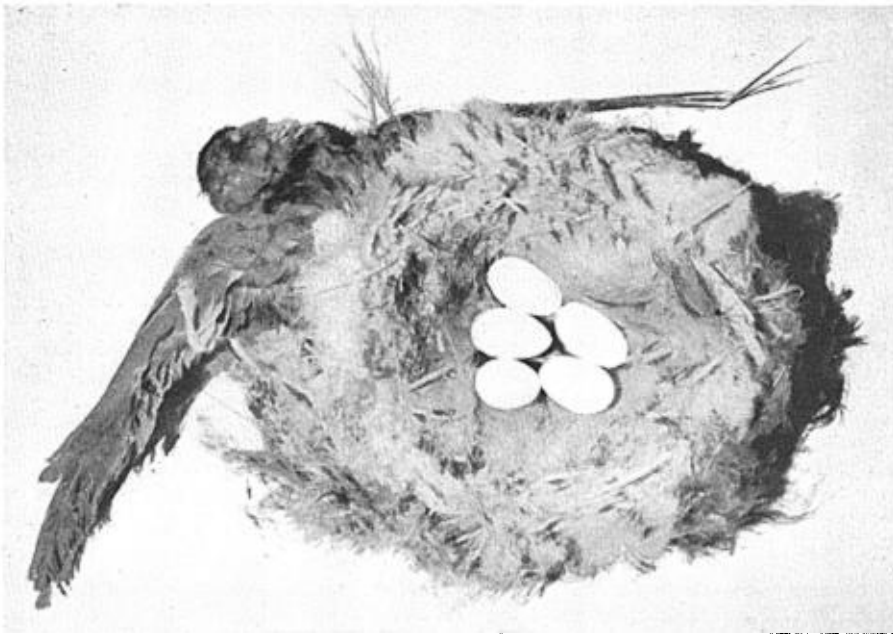


Fig. 27. White-throated Swift's nest built on old nest containing dead swift.

*saxatalis*) was taken by my companion, Mr. L. T. Stevens. This nest, which contained five fresh eggs, was built on an old nest which contained a dead swift. The bird had probably died on the nest the year previously, as it was mummified. Figure 27 shows the new nest with the bird protruding from beneath it.—E. Z. RETT, *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, March 13, 1946.*

**The American Redstart in Southern Nevada.**—On the morning of May 21, 1942, I saw an American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) on the desert about nine miles northeast of Las Vegas, Clark