

Brown Thrashers nesting in a cavity of a tree.—Unusual nesting sites of various species of birds have been observed and recorded by many workers in ornithology. Bent (1948 and 1949. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 195 and 196, respectively) lists several examples of unusual nesting sites for the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and the Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). However, I have not read or heard of the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) nesting in a natural cavity of a tree.

While conducting research on the nesting heights of birds around Ruston, Louisiana, I found a pair of Brown Thrashers on 12 April 1963, nesting at the "Tech Farm" in an open-type cavity of a willow (*Salix* sp.). Of the 108 nests of this species found thus far, 107 have been of the typical open-stantant type. The term open-type cavity is used to imply that it was not of the typical woodpecker type, but a cavity that was due to decay in the tree. The willow is one of two in a pasture. The height from the bottom of the cavity to the ground measured 147.5 inches. The cavity measured 4 inches across and the highest portion of the surrounding wood measured 19.5 inches. The nest was typical of the species, except that the majority of the sticks in the structure were lacking. The depth of the nest was 1.5 inches and the inside diameter of the structure was 4 inches. All four eggs hatched in this nest.

It is interesting to note that in the same tree, 22 inches higher, there was a nest of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) in another cavity.—WALTER K. TAYLOR, *Department of Zoology, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, Louisiana, 24 October 1963.*

NEW LIFE MEMBER



Sally F. Hoyt, of Etna, New York, an active member of the Wilson Ornithological Society since 1952, is now a Life Member of the Society. She received her A.B. degree from Wilson College, her M.S. degree from the University of Pennsylvania,

and her Ph.D. degree from Cornell University. At present, Dr. Hoyt is Administrative Assistant to Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Director of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University.

Her avian interests include feeding behavior, attracting birds, bird-study methods, bird-banding, and the Pileated Woodpecker; she has written on the ecology of this species, she has published many short notes and book reviews in a dozen journals, and she co-authored "Enjoying Birds in Upstate New York."

Dr. Hoyt, the widow of Southgate Hoyt—a former WOS member—is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the A.O.U., Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, NEBB, EBBA, and others. She was Corresponding Secretary of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., and is Bibliography Committee Chairman of the Federation, and also is regional editor of *The Kingbird*.