

Record of female Cardinals sharing nest.—The Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) has long been known for its aggressive territorial behavior, both the male and female taking part in defense of territory. It appears of value, therefore, to record observations of nest sharing by two female Cardinals in Topeka, Kansas during the summer of 1967.

On 29 June 1967 I was told that a female albinic Cardinal (known to have been in the same neighborhood for about four years) was sharing a nest with another female Cardinal. I visited the site immediately and as I approached, both females flew from the nest, which contained five eggs. Two additional eggs had fallen to the ground.

On 4 July I returned to set up a photographic blind near the nest, and again both females flew from the nest as I entered the yard. No additional eggs had been added to the clutch. While I watched from my blind, the male and normal female returned to a garage roof near the nest after a brief time and hopped about nervously peering down at the nest. The albinic female flew across the yard three or four times without alighting and on two of her flights was aggressively pursued by the normal female into another yard some distance from the nest. The normal female finally returned to the nest and resumed incubation.

As I approached the site at noon on 5 July both females flew from the nest, this time revealing four newly-hatched young and one egg. On this occasion all three adult birds returned at once and began feeding the young, the normal female later settling down to brood. Almost immediately the albinic female brought food and passed it to the brooding female who in turn stood up and fed the young. During this period in the blind I observed no aggressive behavior by any of the birds.

By noon on 8 July when I visited the nest for the last time, the fifth egg had hatched and all three adults were engaged in feeding the young. No brooding, food passing or aggressive behavior was observed during a 45 minute period.

Shared nesting is comparatively uncommon among the birds and for a normally monogamous, strongly territorial species like the Cardinal, this behavior must be rare indeed. Though not conclusive, the clutch size suggests that eggs were laid by both females and that all were fertilized by the one male seen in the neighborhood. Cardinal nesting records in Kansas indicate an average clutch size of 3.31 with extremes ranging from 3 to 5 eggs based on a sampling of 25 nests (Johnson, Directory to the bird-life of Kansas, Publication No. 23, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, 1960).—ORVILLE O. RICE, 1663 West 28th Terrace, Topeka, Kansas, 27 February 1968.

Relationships among some South American seedeaters (*Sporophila*), with a record of *S. hypochroma* for Argentina.—In an estero (sawgrass area with standing water) 21 km east-southeast of Itá-Ibaté, northern Corrientes, Argentina, on 28 October 1967, my companion Richard S. Crossin collected what appeared to be a bright male of *Sporophila minuta*. The specimen weighed 9.4 g, and had enlarged testes (6 × 5 mm), dark brown irides, brownish legs, and a black bill lightly tinged with olive.

While attempting to identify this specimen, I was able to examine and compare specimens of various South American species of *Sporophila* (listed below), and especially specimens of both sexes of *Sporophila minuta minuta* (for the purposes of this discussion *S. m. parva* is included with this form) and *S. m. hypoxantha*. These two forms are widely allopatric; *S. m. minuta* occurs in southern Central America and northern South America north of Amazonia, while *S. m. hypoxantha* occurs in southern Brazil, Paraguay, eastern Bolivia and northern Argentina. I believe that these forms are separate species, and that they are not as closely related as their superficial similarity suggests. Mensural data (Table 1; de Schauensee, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sciences of Philadelphia, 104:191, 1952)