

Evidence of two Tree Swallow females sharing the same nest box.—On 13 June 1971, I observed eight eggs in a Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) box, located in John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Refuge, 6 miles south of Massapequa, Nassau County, New York. As I opened the box, I was able to capture and band a bird believed to be a female as it had a well developed brood-patch. A few hours later, I checked the box again and captured a different bird with an equally well developed brood-patch, incubating the eight eggs. I also banded this bird.

On 14 June there were five eggs and three young in the box; on 16 June, as well as on the following day, there were four eggs and four young; on 18 June, two eggs and six young; and on 19 June there were eight young. On all these days three birds staunchly defended the box. On numerous occasions, I waited until one of the three birds entered the nesting box and then I walked over and trapped the bird inside. Each time it was one of the two banded females. Once or twice the other two birds would alight on the nesting box when the third bird was inside.

The third bird was mist-netted and banded on 19 June, and had no evidence of an incubation patch. Because the bird had had no incubation patch, and because it never entered the box I believed it to be a male. According to (Kuerzi, Proc. Linnaean Soc., 52-53:27, 1941) and (Low, Bird-Banding 3:2, 1932) under normal conditions the female Tree Swallow incubates the eggs, and the male usually perches outside.

On 26 June all the young were found to be partially feathered, but on 5 July no young were found in the box although the nest was intact.

The young did not seem to be hindered by the extremely crowded conditions in the box and the three adults (two females and one male) were always observed near the box. Although adjacent boxes were also occupied and were as close as 50 feet only at this box were there three birds defending the nest. In four years of Tree Swallow study in this area, this was the first occurrence of more than six eggs (Schaeffer, EBBA News, 34:216-222, 1971). There is mention of four seven egg clutches (Paynter, Bird-Banding, 25:35-58; 102-110; 136-148, 1954). Yunick (Kingbird, 21:47-56, 1971) mentions two cases of eight egg clutches and in one of the cases there were two different egg shapes, pointing to a suspicion of two separate layings. Bent (Life histories of North American flycatchers, larks, swallows, and their allies, 1942), mentions two males and one female using the same box but makes no mention of two females and one male. It is possible that this is a case of two females sharing a nest because all the other boxes in this general area were taken; however, it is also possible that this is an isolated case of polygyny, but other than the above I cannot offer solid evidence. I did not observe copulation between the male and any other bird because no visits were made to the Refuge during the appropriate time period.—HARVEY FARBER, 112-50 78th Avenue, Forest Hills, New York 11375, 22 September 1971.

Steller's Jays prey on Gray-headed Juncos and a Pygmy Nuthatch during periods of heavy snow.—Members of the family Corvidae are typically omnivorous in their feeding habits, their diet consisting primarily of fruits, grains, berries, insects and occasionally eggs and nestlings of various small birds. There are also several reports in the literature of the unexpectedly high frequency of Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) predation on red bats (*Lasiurus borealis*) (see D. F. Hoffmeister and W. L. Downes, Southwestern Naturalist, 9:102, 1964). Roth (Condor, 73:113, 1971) has recently reported an account of the Mexican Jay (*Aphelocoma ultramarina*) attacking and killing a small sparrow under conditions of heavy snow in southeastern Arizona.

Observations at feeding stations in Flagstaff, Coconino Co., Arizona, inhabited through-

out the winter by juncos and Steller's Jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) have been made for several years. During periods of mild weather, jays and juncos show no antagonistic behavior toward each other, but during periods of extended cold weather and/or snow the presence of jays at the feeders is sufficient to keep juncos out of the immediate area.

In late December of 1970 Dr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Colbert observed a Steller's Jay capture and partially consume an adult Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*). A large flock of nuthatches had been attracted to a suet feeder near the Colbert house. An individual nuthatch flew into an open area in a large stand of pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and was about 10 ft off the ground when a jay that had been perched on a branch in a nearby tree, swooped down on the nuthatch catching it in mid-air with its feet. The jay then flew back to its perch and as Dr. Colbert observed through binoculars, the jay used its beak to pluck and kill the nuthatch, holding it down with one foot while grasping the perch with the other. When the jay was approached it flew off into a deeper portion of the woods still clutching the dead nuthatch in its feet.

Another incident of Steller's Jay predation occurred on 20 February 1971, when during a heavy snowfall a jay was observed (Balda) attacking an adult Gray-headed Junco (*Junco caniceps*). The jay dove down to a platform feeder and caught the junco with its feet; it then flew about 40 ft to a perch in a pine where it proceeded to pluck and eat portions of the smaller bird. When the jay was approached it dropped the partially eaten carcass under the tree. Two days later when the snow began to melt, two other dismembered and partially eaten carcasses of Gray-headed Juncos were discovered. We believe these birds met their demise in the same manner as described above.

The weather preceding both of these incidents had been cold; the mean daily temperature for December 1970 was 4°C, with -11°C being the mean low for this month. Snow had fallen intermittently from 14 to 22 December, reaching a maximum depth of 53.3 cm by 22 December. The mean daily temperature for February 1971 was 7.3°C and the mean low was -8.3°C. Snow had begun falling on 17 February reaching a maximum depth of 30.5 cm by 21 February (U. S. Weather Bureau Records, 1970 and 1971, Flagstaff, Arizona).

Although jays are known to hold food objects with their feet while tearing them apart with their beak, we know of no other observation wherein a jay has been reported to capture prey with its feet during flight. Whether or not Steller's Jays make a habit of consuming other bird species as a food source during times of limited food availability is unknown. It is probable that during particularly harsh portions of the winter, lack of suitable vegetable material and insects force the jays to exploit alternate food sources. The facility with which the jays reported herein captured their unusual prey indicates that this food source may be exploited by jays to a greater extent than was previously thought.—STEVEN W. CAROTHERS, N. JOSEPH SHARBER, *Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001* AND RUSSELL P. BALDA, *Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001, 1 October 1971.*

Adult Carolina Chickadee carries young.—On rare occasions when nests are disturbed certain species of birds have been known to pick up and move their eggs to different locations (Truslow, *Natl. Geogr. Mag.*, 130:882-884, 1966; Pettingill, *Ornithology in laboratory and field*, Burgess Publ. Co., Minneapolis, 1970, p. 357). In addition, Welty (*The life of birds*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1962, p. 336) and Pettingill (op. cit.:392) consider at least 10 known instances of non-passerine young being picked up and carried by their parents. This type of behavior is considered to be exceptional.