was noted on 27 May. On 28 May several stalks of grass were present, protruding from the algal masses. On 3 June a two-foot-long grass stalk was hanging from the nest's outer surface, and a cup had been formed.

I also observed the construction of a nest on a flat beam inside a wooden porch in one of the unoccupied brick buildings on Great Gull Island. Small algal globs had been placed in a ring on a flat surface; several stalks of grass were present. This nest was first discovered on 30 May. The algae formed a ring about a bare hollow of wood. On 3 June I found several dried wads of algae in the hollow.

Great Gull Island offers several possible sources of freshwater algae. After exploring these, I found that the single actual source was one flooded, roofless cement bunker. The alga (*Schizomeris*), which formed a surface mat covering a depth of approximately two feet of stagnant water, was easily separated into small pieces. I saw Barn Swallows obtaining small algal masses from the bunker, and watched while one swallow flew to the bunker, disappeared within, and emerged with algae in its bill. It then added the algae to the rim of a nest located approximately 250 feet away.

I did not detect mud in the early construction stages of nests although nests that were being reused had bases of dried sandy soil. I dissected a deserted Barn Swallow nest that had been active in 1970 and observed the presence of dried *Schizomeris* algae and several different kinds of marine algae that are commonly found in the vegetation deposit along the high tide line. There are few reliable sources of mud on the island. It would be interesting to note whether or not the relative amounts of freshwater and marine algae employed vary significantly from year to year, how the use of the algae affects nesting success, and whether or not algae are employed as a nesting material by the Barn Swallow in areas where both algae and mud are amply available.

I am indebted to Helen Hays for assistance in preparing this note. I would also like to thank Dr. Kenneth Parkes for suggesting possible references and critically reading the manuscript. I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Isabelle Fries and Bill Schiller for help in identifying algal samples.—KATHLEEN DUFFIN, *211 Montross Road, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598, 30 August 1972.*

Immature Robin gathering nest material.—On 22 August 1972 a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) with throat and extreme upper breast still in the spotted juvenal plumage was foraging on my lawn in Larchmont, Baltimore County, Maryland. At one place it tore off, sometimes tugging hard to do so, about half a dozen blades of fine, dead grass. It carried these in its bill for several steps, then dropped them and foraged again. A minute later it ran at an immature Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) on the lawn and put it to flight.

Nice (Trans. Linnaean Soc. New York, 6:78–79, 1943) has assembled records of nest-material carrying by young birds of some other species. Other breeding behavior known for immature Robins includes attempts at copulation (Young, Amer. Midl. Nat., 53: 332, 1955) and, in captivity, the feeding of still younger birds (Favell, Wilson Bull., 47: 298, 1935).—HERVEY BRACKBILL, *2620 Poplar Drive, Baltimore, Maryland, 21207, 11 September 1972.*

The nesting of the Apapane in lava caves on the island of Hawaii.—The Apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*) is one of the few members of the Hawaiian honeycreeper family (Drepanididae) that is still found in any numbers throughout the state. It inhabits the wet native forests and is a permanent resident of these areas.