

An Unusual Nest of a Baltimore Oriole

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In November of 1973 Mrs. E. R. Rainey of Lexington, Mississippi sent me an unusual nest of a Baltimore Oriole (Icterus galbula) that she found at the tip of a branch of a post oak in her pasture. The nest (Frontispiece) is composed primarily of transparent cellophane strips similar to the "grass" used to fill children's Easter baskets. A few real grasses and pieces of leaves are included. In addition to the woven cellophane forming the outside, the nest is lined and was attached to a limb with nylon fishing line of at least two different sizes - apparently 15 and 30 pound test line. The nest measures approximately 15 cm long by 11 cm diameter on the outside. These dimensions are similar to those mentioned in Bent (1958) Life Histories of North American Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers, and Allies. Smithsonian Institution U.S. National Museum Bulletin 211.), though he mentions that M. G. Vaiden found a Baltimore Oriole nest in Mississippi that was over 20 cm deep.

The nest is now in the ornithological collections of the Zoology Department at Mississippi State University.

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