

skin and is now A.M.N.H. no. 776556. This represents the first known record for continental eastern North America.

The U. S. Weather Bureau reported that a tropical disturbance of less than hurricane strength passed between the Virgin Islands and the Bahamas on 2 June 1963, traveling northwest but offshore of the east coast of the United States, decreasing in intensity as it neared the latitude of the Virginia coast, and finally "blowing itself out" on 4 June 1963 in the Pennsylvania region. It is very likely that this tropical storm was a direct cause of the occurrence of the Red-billed Tropicbird on the shore of Long Island.—JOHN L. BULL, *The American Museum of Natural History, New York* 24, *New York*.

***Tyrannus melancholicus* using a partially domed nest.**—On 1 July 1962 I observed a Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, incubating two eggs in a partially domed nest (Figure 1). The nest was located approximately five feet (1.5 m) above the water in Wheeler Estero, Barro Colorado Island, Panama Canal Zone.

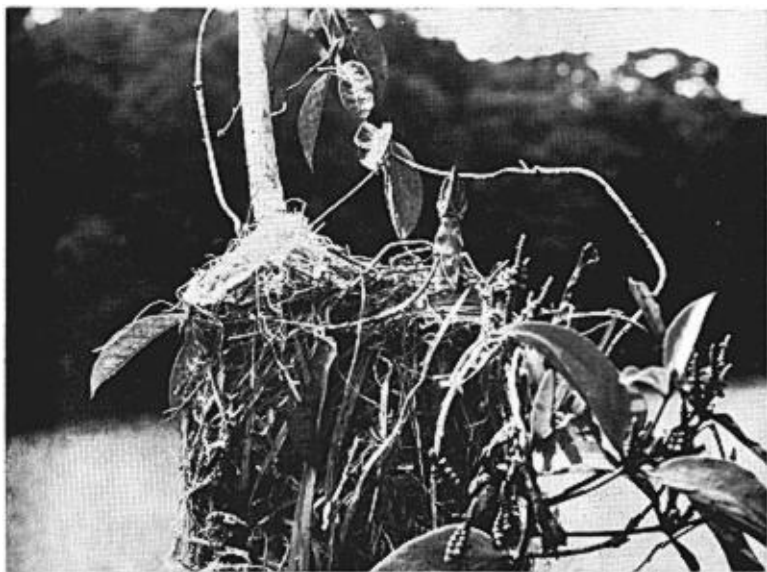


Figure 1. Partially domed nest of the Tropical Kingbird. The nest cup and dome are finer grasses in the upper left of the bulk of material.

The nest cup was placed on top of a large ball of coarse grasses in a fork of one of the lower branches of a small tree. The material of which the cup and the domed edge were composed was considerably finer than that of the supporting ball. The domed section consisted of a concave wall on one side of the nest, which arched over to form the beginnings of a roof, covering perhaps one-quarter of the cup.

Both the Rusty-margined (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) and Social (*M. similis*) flycatchers, tyrannids found in the area, build domed nests, and the larger ball of coarse grasses appeared to be the beginning of one of their nests. It is possible that the nest

site was abandoned by the *Myiozetetes*, or it may have been "pirated" by the kingbird. Whether the *Myiozetetes* persisted at the site and tried to complete the dome normally associated with its nest, or whether the Tropical Kingbird built it, is not known, but *T. melancholicus* normally builds only an open, cup-shaped nest (e.g., see D. R. Dickey and A. J. van Rossem, *Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser.*, 23: 353, 1938).—GEORGE L. HUNT, JR., *The Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.*

**Red-tailed Hawk preys on black-tailed rattlesnake.**—The incident described herein was observed at about 1620 hours on 1 November 1959, near Sheep Mountain on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, in western Pima County, Arizona. The temperature was about 70° F (21° C), a light north wind was blowing, and there were high, thin clouds.

I saw a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) perched on a dead branch in a large mesquite tree (*Prosopis* sp.) about 75 feet (24 m) away. Held in its talons was a snake, later identified with the aid of binoculars as a black-tailed rattlesnake (*Crotalus molossus*). The head and anterior quarter of the snake's body had been torn off and probably eaten by the hawk. The remainder of the snake's body appeared to be about 28 inches (70 cm) long and of normal girth. One brief muscular contraction by the snake was seen, indicating that it had been killed only a short time before.

The hawk seemed alert and healthy and gave no indication that it had been bitten by the snake. A second Red-tailed Hawk made several dives at the first, which shielded its catch and screamed at the intruder. A Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) also dived repeatedly at the first hawk which finally left its perch carrying the snake. The big hawk had no trouble carrying its catch, but the pendulous body of the snake made the bird's flight appear awkward.—ROGER D. JOHNSON, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 7, Roswell, New Mexico.*

**A specimen of the Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris griseocauda*, from Texas.**—Recently, while examining hawks in the Ohio State Museum collections, I found a bird skin, originally from the W. F. Henninger collection, bearing an original label upon which was the following: # 521 *Buteo latissimus* —Broad-winged Hawk—♂—Cameron Co., Texas—Apr. 2, 1901. Also attached to the hawk was another label, one printed by the Museum and used only for birds from the Henninger collection, which reads in part: OSM 5676—*Rupornis magnirostris griseicauda* [sic]. *Rupornis* is written in ink, *magnirostris griseicauda* in pencil, beneath which in pencil are the initials JLP. The identification in pencil appears to be that of the late James Lee Peters. Presumably someone had written *Rupornis* on the label and later the skin was sent to Peters, who identified it. There is no reason to doubt the authenticity of the original label or of the locality, Cameron County.

Friedmann (*Birds of North and Middle America*, Pt. 11, *U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 50, 1950. See p. 340.) does not include Texas in the range of *Buteo magnirostris*, giving the northern limits of the range as central Tamaulipas, the Mexican state bordering Cameron County. The species is not included in the A.O.U. Check-list (fifth edit., 1957). Although obviously representing *magnirostris* and not a Broad-winged Hawk (*B. platypterus* = *latissimus*), the specimen was sent to Dr. Lester L. Short, Jr., of the U. S. National Museum, who verified the identification.—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN, *Department of Zoology, Ohio State University at Ohio State Museum, Columbus 10, Ohio.*