

Unusual nesting site for House Sparrows.—The remarkable ability of birds to nest in various sites not commonly associated with their species has been frequently recorded in the literature, but cases of birds nesting and rearing young in moving sites are notably uncommon. The following species have been reported nesting in moving objects: European Robin, *Erithacus rubecula* (Lack, *The life of the Robin*, London, Hunt, Barnard, and Company, 1946); White Wagtail, *Montocilla alba* (Lokietsch, *Orn. Mitt.*, 9: 98, 1957); Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne chalybea* (Austin, *Birds of the world*, New York, Golden Press, 1961); Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, Robin, *Turdus migratorius*, Tree Swallow, *Iridoprocne bicolor*, and Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe* (Welty, *The life of birds*, Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Co., 1963).

On 24 June 1967, 11.5 miles east of McPherson, McPherson County, Kansas, I saw several adult House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) carrying food and repeatedly flying to a working oil pump. Closer inspection showed the pump contained three nests (Figure 1), all with young. One nest (A) was placed under the stationary fulcrum approximately eight feet above the ground. The other two, one (B) built within the head portion, the second (C) on the other end of the pumping bar, were in constant motion, seesawing about two feet up and down with each cycle of the pump every three to four seconds. A quick survey of eight other pumps in the vicinity revealed one House Sparrow nest with young on each pump, most of them built in the head of the pumping bar.

The supervisor of the oil field told me that none of the pumps in the area had been stopped during the past two to three years except for minor repairs, and that the previous summer (1966) he had noted several pairs of House Sparrows and one pair of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) nesting in the pumps.

The nesting adaptability of House Sparrows has been amply documented (Bridgman, *Brit. Birds*, 55: 461-470, 1962; Summers-Smith, *The House Sparrow*, London, Collins, 1963: 52-57), but so far as I can determine from the literature, the species has not been reported previously nesting on a constantly moving object.—JOHN L. TATSCHL, *Department of Biology, Park College, Parkville, Missouri 64152.*



Figure 1. Oil pump (in motion) containing three nests indicated by A, B, and C.