

Oregon Junco droppings contained 81.78 per cent water. When the birds were provided water *ad libitum*, the excretory water loss was 6.21 g excreted per day (30.10 per cent of the mean body weight). As Table 2 shows, during a 24-hour period Oregon Juncos lost 16 per cent of their body weight through respiratory water loss and 30.10 per cent of their body weight through excretory loss.

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**An excessively large but unfinished Starling nest.**—On 25 June 1968 Leon Frazier reported to Connell the presence of a mysterious accumulation of dry vegetative material on the ground beside a wall in his tobacco curing shed near Henderson, North Carolina. Connell immediately visited the shed and found the material being brought into the shed by a pair of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) trying to build a nest on a ledge 4 inches wide about 18 feet above the ground, just beneath the ridge of the roof. The pile of material continued to grow until the birds ceased their nest-building activities about 15 July.

Before the Starlings stopped carrying material, they had accumulated a pile about 6 feet high and 3½ feet in diameter at the base. The main pile was on top of a heating pipe, 14 inches in diameter, lying on the ground, but material fell around the sides of the pipe to the ground. The material, all of which was reasonably dry, weighed 67 pounds and consisted mostly of pine needles, lawn clippings, and soybean stalks. These were available at the following approximate distances from the shed: pine needles, 40 feet; lawn clippings, 60 feet, soybean stalks, 100 feet.

The Starlings entered the building through a small hole beneath the ridge of the roof. The birds were not banded or otherwise marked, but apparently only one pair was involved and both members of the pair worked on the nest. As the birds no longer entered the building after they stopped accumulating nest material, we assumed that they laid no eggs. We did not climb to the nesting ledge in the course of nest-building activities, but we could see from the ground that little or no nest cup was formed before the nesting material fell to the ground. The pile of material increased in height about 10 inches between 25 June and 15 July.

Bent (U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 197: 190, 1950) reports a smaller but still excessively large Starling nest in Lyndonville, New York, so large "a bushel basket would not begin to hold it." Unlike the birds building our "nest," the New York birds reared a brood of young successfully.—PAUL A. STEWART, *Entomology Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Oxford, North Carolina 27565*, and J. P. B. CONNELL, *811 South Garnett Street, Henderson, North Carolina 27536.*

**Head-scratching method of the Swainson's Warbler.**—Ficken and Ficken (Auk, 85: 136, 1968) suggest that the "Head-scratching method may prove a valuable addition to the set of complex characters that can be used in defining genera," and that field observers should continue to fill gaps in our knowledge of this behavior. In the course of a series of observations of Swainson's Warblers (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) in the Dismal Swamp, Virginia, I saw head-scratching in three individuals, four times in one, three in another, and once in the third. All three birds used the direct method, bringing the foot forward and under the wing.—BROOKE MEANLEY, *Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, U. S. Department of the Interior, Laurel, Maryland 20810.*