TABLE 2. Average radionuclide contents of cheesecloth blankets exposed from 18 April to 20 June 1975 to rejecta from heron nests as compared to controls

Radionuclides	pCi/g dry weight									pCi/m²	
	Blanket locations with rejecta										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Average	Control	Rejecta	Control
^{144}Ce	3.3	4.2	5.0	4.9	4.6	2.9	3.8	4.1	131	610	410
^{106}Ru	[a]	1.3	3.4	1.1	[a]	[a]	1.1	0.99	143	110	490
^{137}Cs	36	6.4	3.2	13	39	16	10	18	9.9	3,300	34
^{95}Zr	0.74	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.4	0.90	1.2	1.1	43	170	130
^{54}Mn	0.31	1.0	0.23	0.39	0.55	0.38	0.13	0.43	2.1	98	6.0
^{65}Zn	0.35	0.42	0.17	0.73	0.60	0.28	0.21	0.39	[a]	66	[a]
^{40}K	14	14	10	13	14	13	16	13	3.2	2,400	24
^{60}Co	0.34	0.87	0.43	0.49	0.54	0.51	0.23	0.48	[a]	94	[a]

[a] Below detection limits.

Great Blue Herons sometimes forage around nuclear waste ponds that contain goldfish (Fitzner and Rickard 1975, BNWL-1885, Battelle, Pacific Northwest Laboratories, Richland, WA). These goldfish have relatively high levels of ^{137}Cs (about 84 pCi/g fresh weight; Cushing and Watson 1974, BNWL-1884). Possibly goldfish contributed to the levels of ^{137}Cs measured in heron rejecta, but we have no direct evidence of this.

Young herons remain in the nest for several weeks following hatching, during which time food scraps and fecal droppings accumulate on the ground beneath the nest trees. Systematic collection of nest rejecta and analysis for radioactivity, trace metals, and other kinds of potentially biologically transportable industrial pollutants appears to be a useful way of detecting trends in local environmental contamination of food chains in a high trophic level organism without imposing mortality upon a relatively small and isolated heron population. Collections such as these could be applied to other heron colonies to yield information on food chain contamination in regions with different and changing mixtures of land uses.

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Second Occurrence and First Successful Nesting Record of the Hook-billed Kite in the United States

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On 16 December 1975 two pairs of adult Hook-billed Kites (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) were observed on Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, 11.3 km south of Alamo, Hidalgo County, Texas. These birds were seen almost daily until the end of April 1976, when one pair apparently left the area.

In early May, a Hook-billed Kite nest with two eggs was found in a Texas ebony tree (*Pithecellobium flexicaule*) located in chapparral brushland by Cruz Martinez. The nest was 6.5 m from the ground. On 6 June 1976 the newly-hatched birds were first observed. One young kite inexplicably disappeared but the other fledged. The adults were last seen and the young bird heard calling from outside the nest on 10 July 1976 by Wayne Shifflett although the fledgling was not observed at that time. These observations represent the second occurrence and first successful nesting record for this tropical species in the United States. The previous record in early May 1964 was also at Santa Ana and included three downy young that soon disappeared from a nest in another Texas ebony tree located in brushy woodlands growing on a sandy Rio Grande floodplain (Fleetwood and Hamilton, Auk 84: 598–601, 1967).

Beneath the nest there were several hundred opened land snail shells that the kites had fed on. All were identified as *Rabdotus alternatus* (Joe Ideker, Pers. Comm.)—*Received 24 February 1977, accepted 19 April 1977.*