

At this later stage, when the "cracking-of-the-whip" maneuver sometimes occurred, the birds often roared through the adjacent telephone and electric power wires, now and then only five feet above the ground. It was remarkable that widespread injuries did not result from collision. Once, as the group streamed past, a martin suddenly darted up from the weeds near-by and joined the flight. It had apparently been stunned and then revived. At another time we found one lying dazed in a road a mile southeast of the roost, where preliminary assembly on electric wires was under way. It did not move when we picked it up; no injury was visible. By this time the martins began to take off for the roost so we drove over, carrying the stunned bird with us. In a few minutes the bird began to struggle and when we reached the vicinity of the roost it squealed loudly in its efforts to escape. We then opened the car window and released it. Immediately the martin flew upward into the whirling flock above the cottonwood trees. Occasionally we found a dead martin beneath the early assembly points.

Group division within the total mass at the roost was evident throughout the fall. The martins arrived in fairly definite groups from different directions. They descended into the roosting tree by groups. Likewise the departure for the south was by groups. After September 30 the number of martins diminished each night and on October 11 only five appeared. None was seen after that date.

Finally it might be emphasized that so far as our observations go, the preliminary evening assembly, when it occurs, has always been upon electric wires. The first military telegraph line reached Tucson in 1873, and it was years later before electric light and power lines were constructed. Previous to this, did the martins gather in trees before going to roost in other trees? Or did they fly directly to their roost?—A. H. ANDERSON and ANNE ANDERSON, *Tucson, Arizona, February 23, 1946.*

An Unusual Nest of the White-throated Swift.—While collecting near Shandon, Kern County, California, in the latter part of May, 1945, a nest of the White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes*

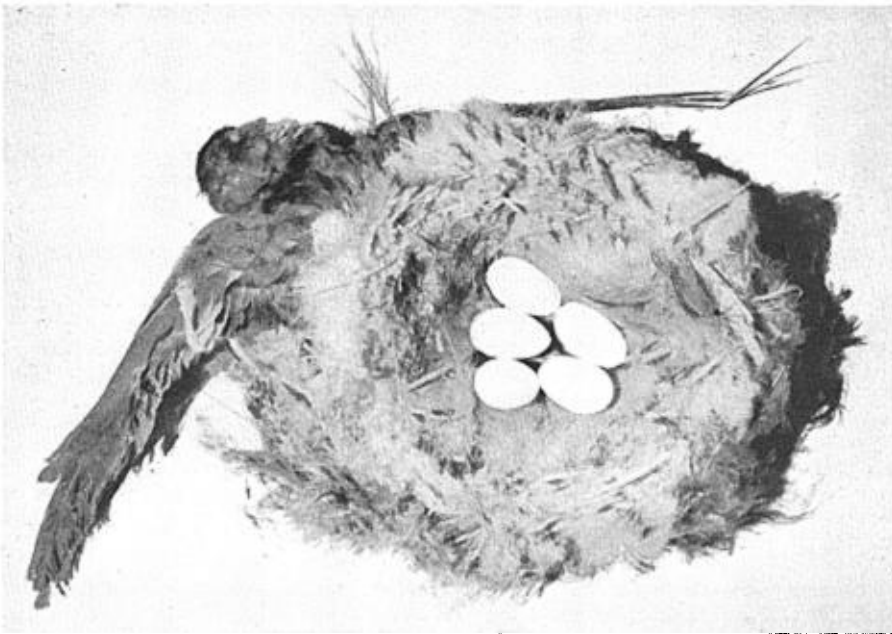


Fig. 27. White-throated Swift's nest built on old nest containing dead swift.

saxatalis) was taken by my companion, Mr. L. T. Stevens. This nest, which contained five fresh eggs, was built on an old nest which contained a dead swift. The bird had probably died on the nest the year previously, as it was mummified. Figure 27 shows the new nest with the bird protruding from beneath it.—E. Z. RETT, *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, March 13, 1946.*

The American Redstart in Southern Nevada.—On the morning of May 21, 1942, I saw an American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) on the desert about nine miles northeast of Las Vegas, Clark