reached a similar conclusion regarding European Nightjars in northern Europe. Survival value of torpor is probably greatest in spring, when returning migrants may be faced with cold and perhaps wet weather for several days, as occurred at Pocatello in May 1968. In the autumn the Poor-wills depart from southeastern Idaho when the weather is mild and flying insects are plentiful.

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USE OF DIPPER NEST BY MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

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Dippers (*Cinclus mexicanus*) often nest on the supporting beams of bridges. I visited one such nest near Togwotee Pass, Wyoming (Teton National Forest Road 30018 over Black Rock Creek), in each of three summers. The underside of this bridge also contained a colony of Cliff Swallows. On 23 July 1967 the nest was occupied by a pair of Dippers with two chicks, all of which I banded. Possibly as a result of this disturbance, there were no Dippers there in 1968. The nest was being utilized by Mountain Bluebirds (*Sialia currucoides*) who had 4 eggs (7 July) and 4 chicks (27 July). By 10 July 1969 occupancy had reverted to Dippers, but apparently to different individuals, as neither adult bore a band. At least two chicks were in the nest.

The Mountain Bluebird nests in river-bank cavities of Bank Swallows (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 196: 278, 1949), but I find no record of use of a Dipper nest by the bluebird.

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VARIATION IN AVIAN PLASMA PROTEINS

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In a recent paper, Sibley and Hendrickson (Condor 72:43, 1970) showed that avian plasma proteins (as delimited by starch gel electrophoresis) are of little value in uncovering the relationships of the higher categories of birds. They found a basic similar pattern in all the birds examined, but great variation in minor protein bands. I have examined the plasma proteins of many passerine species using disc acrylamide electrophoresis and would like to place on record much the same conclusions as reached by Sibley and Hendrickson.

Avian blood was collected in a culture tube containing a tablet of potassium oxalate dissolved in a 1.0 per cent saline solution. The tubes were immediately placed on ice and the red blood cells precipitated by centrifugation. The resulting supernatant was submitted to electrophoresis. The technique used was similar to that described by Davis (Ann. New York Acad. Sci. 121:404, 1964), and Ornstein (Ann. New York Acad. Sci. 121:321, 1964). A tris-glycine buffer at *p*H. 8.5 with Brom-phenol blue added as a marker was used. Ten tubes, each conducting 5 ma, were run simultaneously in a cold room and the current was terminated after the Brom-phenol blue front had migrated 32 mm. The gels were stained for general protein with an amido black solution, and destained in 8 per cent acetic acid.