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Dome Rebuilding by Clapper Rails.—In a typical Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) nest the eggs are held in a shallow bowl suspended above the ground by a column of marsh grass (*Spartina alterniflora*). A dome is woven from blades of living grass that extends over the nest, thus concealing the eggs. Although some have reported the dome use as camouflage from aerial predators (Johnson, 1973, Observations on the ecology and management of northern Clapper Rail, *Rallus longisostris crepitans* in Nassau County, New York, Ph.D. diss. Cornell Univ., Ithaca, New York) others suggest that it probably aids to contain the eggs within the nest during tidal inundation (Andrews, 1980, Nest-related behavior of the Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*), Ph.D. diss., Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, New Jersey).

I studied Clapper Rails at Corson's Inlet (near Ocean City, Cape May County, New Jersey) from May to July in 1977 and 1980. To test whether or not these rails would rebuild the dome, and to examine dependence of rebuilding upon nesting stage, I opened the woven dome above the nest cup and folded it back along the outside of the nest platform at each of 15 nests. Experimental manipulation was done at low tide and checked 24 h later for signs of rebuilding. All nests were located along natural creeks with a mean nest distance (creek side vegetation to nest) of 3.5 m (range: 1.8 to 6.0 m). Mean nest height (ground to nest cup rim) was 21.4 cm (range: 10 to 33 cm). All nests had similarly built domes. If 5 or more blades of grass were interwoven, the dome was considered rebuilt. Such manipulations were done during laying (those nests having 1–5 eggs), incubation or late laying (those nests having 8–12 eggs), and late incubation (first day an egg was pipped). Experiments were done on 5 nests for each of the 3 nesting stages.

Chi square analysis ($df = 2$, $\chi^2 = .50$, $P > .05$) revealed that the stage of nesting did not influence dome rebuilding more than would be expected by chance. Eighty percent (12 of 15 nests) of the dome-manipulated nests were rebuilt within 24 h (those not rebuilt included; 2 early, and 1 during mid-incubation). Of 3 nests where the domes were not rebuilt, one nest was abandoned with no eggs found in the area of the nest, the second was lost to predation of all eggs by crows, and the third nest proceeded through normal hatching without egg loss and without a dome.—PAUL A. KOSTEN, *1217 New York Avenue, Cape May, New Jersey 08204.* Received 29 Apr. 1983; accepted 18 Apr. 1984.

Attacks on a Human by a Nesting American Kestrel.—Attacks by falconiformes on humans are generally uncommon and usually are in defense of nests or nesting territories (Brown 1976:130). However, it is not at all unusual for accipiters like the Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) and larger falcons such as the Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) to strike humans in defense of their nests (Craighead and Craighead 1956, Snyder 1974, Ratcliffe 1980:229). In this note I report attacks on a human intruder by a nesting female American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*).

On 21 May 1982, I was checking a kestrel nest in Boone County, Missouri. The nest was 5 m high in a hollow beam at the end of a tool shed and contained 6 nestlings ranging in age from 2 days to 1 week. Initially both adult kestrels soared and hovered 10–20 m above while vocalizing incessantly. Suddenly the female stooped on me in a series of 12 successive dives, missing my head by centimeters. The last stoop culminated in the kestrel raking my scalp with her talons.

Her attacks occurred again on 27 May when I was struck 8 times, on 2 June when I banded the 6 nestlings and was struck 4 times, and on 14 June when I collected pellets from the nest. The intensity of her aggression was less during this last visit and I was struck only once.

In 1983, this female kestrel repeated her aggressive nest defense, striking me 13