

Aberrant sexual behavior in the American Robin.—At Baltimore, Maryland, on May 31, 1946, an adult American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) copulated four times in about half a minute with a fledgling that was less than 24 hours out of the nest.

The fledgling was squatting upon my lawn, and the adult was already copulating when I first noticed the birds from a window 20 yards away. The adult dismounted, moved a few yards in front of the fledgling, then flew back and copulated again. Twice more, at intervals of several seconds, this behavior was repeated, the young bird remaining all the while in its original squatting position. When the adult moved away again, I left the window for a matter of seconds to get a binocular; upon returning, I found only the fledgling on the lawn, but on the roof of a garage a couple of yards away was the color-banded male of a pair that had nested next door, and when shortly the fledgling flew into a bush, I saw by its color band that it was one of this male's own offspring. Since my lawn was a jealously-defended part of the male's territory, and there had been no sound of conflict while I was getting my binocular, there is little doubt that he himself was the bird I had seen copulating with his fledgling.

The incident occurred at 6 a.m. The young bird had left the nest the day before (May 30), some time between 6 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., at the normal nest-leaving age of 13 to 14 days.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

Choice of nest-site in the American Robin.—Assuming that the female American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) generally selects the site of the nest she builds, successive nestings of color-banded females at Baltimore, Maryland, indicate that some birds show a limited amount of preference for a particular type of nest site but others show none.

Three nests of one female were all about 8½ feet above the ground, but otherwise the locations differed. The first nest in 1945 was in a 10-foot spruce, the second in a rose vine on a trellis against a house. The second in 1946 (the first was not found) was on a grape arbor. I believe this bird's mates (unbanded) in the two years were different ones.

Five successive nestings of a second female have been observed, and, except for the re-use of one nest, there were no similarities. The first nest in 1945 was 11 feet up in a climber rose on a porch; this nest was re-used but collapsed with the nestlings; the third nesting was 15 feet up in a 20-foot apple tree. The first nest in 1946 was 9½ feet up in a 12-foot lilac, and the second 22½ feet up in a tall pin oak. This bird had different mates in the two years.

Two successive nests of a third female were found. The first was on the top edge of a second-floor window shutter and was destroyed during the incubation period; the second nesting was 6 feet up in a 6½-foot bush.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.