

least 4 females were killed. It is noteworthy that males performed the risky task of inspecting nest cavities significantly less often than the non-risky task of indicating that it is safe for females to emerge from their nests ($\chi^2 = 49.9$, $df = 1$, $P < 0.001$). By reducing the risk of predation on their mates, males probably increase their own chances of reproductive success by protecting the lives of their future or actual offspring.

I thank C. G. P. Doner, P. C. Hanson and G. B. Van Vliet for help in fieldwork, and the National Science Foundation for partly supporting my research through grants BNS76-08840 and BNS77-09299.—HARRY W. POWER, *Dept. Biology, Livingston Coll., Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903. Accepted 19 Sept. 1979.*

Wilson Bull., 92(4), 1980, p. 511

Solitary Vireo nest used by a Western Flycatcher.—In northern Napa County (2.7 km SSW Aetna Springs), California, we discovered a Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) using the nest of a Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*). The nest was first observed 8 May 1977, when it contained 4 vireo eggs and 1 Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) egg. When we approached, a vireo flew from the nest, and, with another vireo, presumably its mate, scolded us as we examined the contents. On 14 May, a vireo was brooding 4 nestlings and 1 unhatched cowbird egg. We did not observe the nest again until 4 June when 2 Western Flycatcher eggs were found in it. The identity of the eggs was confirmed on 5 June when we found a Western Flycatcher on the nest, which contained 3 flycatcher eggs, of which one had probably been laid that morning. The nest had not been modified from its condition at the time of the vireo nesting. We watched the bird for several minutes from within 6 m after it had flown from the nest. Because we had been observing several flycatcher nests in the area, our identification of the bird as a Western Flycatcher was immediate. In addition, the eggs had the brownish spotting typical of a Western Flycatcher rather than the blackish or dark gray spotting of a Solitary Vireo. We returned to the nest 18 June hoping to photograph nestlings and the brooding adult flycatcher; however, we found the nest deserted.

The nest was located at the end of a branch of a toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) shrub within a dense stand of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). The nest was a well-formed cup suspended 1.5 m above ground. The few surrounding toyon leaves did not conceal the nest. The nest-site was typical of local Solitary Vireos, but atypical of the Western Flycatcher. Local flycatcher nests were invariably placed on solid structures (often man-made), usually resting against a solid vertical wall, with some kind of "roofing" directly above them.

The poorly concealed, abandoned nest of a Solitary Vireo would probably be an easily found egg receptacle of appropriate size (both species weigh 12–14 g) for a flycatcher whose nest had been destroyed. In our study area, young vireos fledged by 4 June at all 8 of the nests that we observed in 1977. Flycatchers were incubating eggs until at least mid-June. Thus, late-nesting or re-nesting flycatchers could use vireo nests without confronting the vireos. Once the first egg was laid psychological attachment to that nest-site would probably develop and the remainder of the nesting cycle would therefore be completed in the "adopted" nest. To our knowledge, this is the first report of a Western Flycatcher laying its eggs in the nest of another species.

We thank the Biological Field Studies Association for allowing us access to the study area and Dr. N. K. Johnson for providing us with the weights of the birds and his comments on the manuscript. Dr. J. C. Barlow also reviewed the manuscript.—GEOFFREY A. HAMMERSON AND BETH P. LAPIN, *Dept. Biological Science, California State Univ., Hayward, California 94542. (Present address GAH: Dept. Environmental, Population and Organismic Biology, Univ. Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309.) Accepted 30 July 1979.*