iment Station, Arizona State Univ., Tempe, Arizona 85281. (Present address: *Forest, Range and Watershed Laboratory, 222 South 22nd Street, Laramie, Wyoming 82070.*) *Accepted 2 Jan. 1982.*

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An apparent instance of communal nesting by American Oystercatchers.—Communal nesting, as defined by Van Tyne and Berger (Fundamentals of Ornithology, John Wiley and Sons, New York, New York, 1976), is known from a few species in widely divergent orders. I observed a communal American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) nest on the Laguna Madre that represents the first published record of communal nesting for the species.

On 4 June 1977 I found an American Oystercatcher nest on Dimmit Point Island, located at the junction of the Laguna Madre and Corpus Christi Bay, Nueces Co., Texas. The nest, situated atop a shell embankment 1 m high, and on the periphery of a Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) colony, contained six eggs. Four adult oystercatchers flew near me, calling, while I photographed the nest.

The following morning I again visited the island and concealed myself in salt cedar (*Tamarix* sp.) bush 400–600 m from the nest. During the course of the morning, all four oystercatchers remained in the vicinity of the nest, rarely straying more than 100 m away. Three of the oystercatchers entered the nest and sat on or turned the eggs, although none remained in the nest for more than 10 min. The eggs hatched sometime during the following week, for on 15 June I briefly observed four young on the island in the vicinity of the nest. When my presence was detected, the young hid in low vegetation and three adults flew around me calling.

According to Bent (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 142, 1929: 307), the normal clutch-size for American Oystercatchers is three eggs. However, Bent mentions that clutches of five and six eggs have been found. This apparent instance of communal nesting is exceptional among 21 other American Oystercatcher nests that I have located along the Texas coast since 1973, each being an isolated nest with a two- to three-egg clutch.—BRIAN R. CHAPMAN, *Dept. Biology, Corpus Christi State Univ., Corpus Christi, Texas 78412.* *Accepted 10 Feb. 1982.*

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Song Sparrow pair raise four broods in one year.—Temperate zone passerines are often double-brooded (e.g., Bryant, J. Anim. Ecol. 48:655, 1979) and occasionally raise up to three broods per year (e.g., Snow, A Study of Blackbirds, George Allen and Unwin, London, England, 1958). Cases where four broods are raised, however, are extremely rare, although there are records of three broods being raised and a fourth clutch being unsuccessful (Weaver, Auk 60:62, 1943; Seel, Ibis 110:129, 1968). I report here such a case for the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*).

Song Sparrow breeding was studied on Mandarte Island, British Columbia, Canada, from 1975–1979 (Smith, Condor 83:152, 1981) and in 1981, when 20 pairs bred on the 6.3-ha island. All breeding adults were color-banded and almost all young were color-banded as nestlings about 6 days after hatching.

One pair of experienced birds, a 3-year-old female and a 7-year-old male, raised four broods in 1981. Clutches of three, four, four, and three eggs were begun on 18 March, 16 April, 14 May, and 14 June, respectively. The final clutch also contained two Brown-headed Cowbird