

flew above the height of the trees but flew back and forth just above the water and occasionally contacted the surface of the water. This group arrived at about 11:30 A.M. and left 20 minutes later. Their behavior was more erratic and flight more forceful than the activity of these birds later in the season when they drink water in the evening. The two days preceding the arrival of the martins was characterized by winds of 30-60 miles per hour and blowing continuously ^{from the south.} It is speculated that these strong winds carried the birds north.

Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

April 4, 1971

At 1:00 P.M. placed a martin house in back yard of 402 Yorkshire.
 at 1:20 a single martin alighted on entrance rest of the upper left (S) hand entrance and inspected both the entrance platform and the nesting cavity by entering. After approx. 1/2 minutes it left (E) and gave a sharp call. It flew to utility line some 30' away and remain silent but preened its feathers. Two minutes later it returned to box and entered the north upper left hole and then inspected the upper right (S) hole and then returned to wire. At this time a second martin arrived and they both inspected the upper holes. These two birds then left together and flew E. This initial inspection lasted 8 minutes. Five minutes later two English sparrows became interested in the martin house. Their approach was entirely different from that of the martin, which was direct and unhesitating. The sparrow would fly up toward the house and then quickly change direction and dart down to the bushes nearby. Approx. 8 such attempts were made before the sparrows finally alighted on the house and then with caution. For the rest of the day there were only about 5 additional inspections made by sparrows.

April 5, 1971

At shortly after sunrise, English sparrows were observed at the martin house, one pair dominating but as many as 7 other birds challenging what appeared to be the one pair that had established a territory. Nest material was being placed in all holes. In one case a wide stem of a weed would not go into a hole so another hole at the opposite end of the house was used. At this time there was no ~~any~~ reluctance of sparrows entering the house. In fact when I would go over to the house (martin) and scare them away, they would return before I was 30' away from the martin house. At the time they are defending territories, they are less alert to predation.