

402 Yorkshire, Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas
June, June, June, June
 April 29, 1973

For the last 5 days have had a plastic sack over martin house to discourage nesting of English sparrows. At the time sack was secured there were 2 of the nests with fresh eggs. At 8:50 A.M. (day clear, sunny, temp 51°F, windy) removed the plastic sack. At 8:51 a ♂ English sparrow alighted at entrance of low right hole and remained nearly motionless for 30 sec. At 8:56 it inspected inside hole. At 8:57 a second ♂ arrived and was chased away by the first male. At 8:59 the second male entered lower left hole (N) and first male allowed trespass. 9:05 3rd male and a female arrived. The female was repelled by first male. Males called continuously. The three males now embroiled the N.W. & S sides of martin house, both lower and upper levels. 9:07 4th male challenged N male and was repelled several times. The 4th male had a way of alighting and rapidly entering hole before the 3rd male could attack. The males would fight inside of nest and then for 10-15 seconds on way to ground or adjoining tree. Females were ~~was~~ being repelled by males except one each for each male which was presumably the mated pairs. In 18 minutes after removing the plastic sack, all available holes were occupied by a pair. At 9:20 counted 13 birds at house and all in continuous motion. These surges occurred about every 5 minutes. Males called continuously. No birds in this period were carrying nesting material or were copulating. This activity followed approx. 1 1/2 later after initial territories were set up and were being vigorously defended. At 12:00 the following holes were occupied (N) upper left, N lower left, W lower right, S upper right. In this preliminary period the males seem to initiate and carry responsibility of carrying nesting material. This behaviorism would indicate that protection of martin house from English sparrows in favor of martin competition, when uncovered, is not advisable as it takes only minutes after the sack is removed before the sparrows have complete control.

Perry Lake, Jefferson Co., Kansas
June, June, June, June
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Enroute to Perry Lake via Decempton noted the following birds: chimney swift, martin, Eng sparrow, robin, grackle, redwing, heldeer, crow, red tail, meadowlark, red-headed woodpecker, east, willet, eastern kingbird, mourning dove, barn swallow, goldfinch, brown thrasher, cardinal, bobwhite, titmouse, bluebird. Last week water at 901.5 ft. at Perry.