

northeast of Ennis. The unusual aspect of the nest was a long vertical central column that extended 26 cm along the wall to a horizontal molding strip. Construction began at the molding strip; proceeded upward along the column; then, terminated with nest construction of typical shape and size. The nest was attached near the edge of a vented panel at the bottom of which a chain was attached to hold a wind chime. So, mud attachment should not have been a problem. Therefore, the function of the column is not clear. Measurements were: from rim of nest to concrete floor of porch (2.47 m), space between nest and ceiling (3.8 cm), width of nest cup (15.2 cm), height of nest cup (8.2 cm), height of column (17.8 cm), width of column (9.5 cm), and thickness of column (3.8 cm).

A clutch of five eggs was laid; but, they disappeared in early July, probably as result of snake predation; and, the nest was abandoned. Texas Rat Snakes (*Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri*) are commonly seen in the vicinity (Mark Jones pers. comm.).

I thank Mark Jones for informing me about this unusual nest.

LITERATURE CITED

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SWAINSON'S THRUSH (*CATHARUS USTULATUS*) CAUGHT IN WEB OF GOLDEN SILK ORB WEAVER (*NEPHILA CLAVIPES*)

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Hurricane Humberto passed through High Island, Galveston County, Texas on 13 September 2007. On 16 September 2007, while inspecting damage and cleaning foliage debris along trails at the Houston Audubon Society's Boy Scout Woods Nature Sanctuary, we noticed a Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) caught in a web of a Golden Silk Orb Weaver (*Nephila clavipes*) at 1545 h. We immediately rescued the bird, trapped in an upside down position a little above the center of the web, which measured approximately 0.8 m in diameter. We inspected the bird and it appeared in good condition with moderate fat levels on the breast. Upon



Figure 1.

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release the bird flew approximately 20 m in a curved-arc flight path approximately 1.3 m above the ground before disappearing behind vegetation.

The case of a bird this large being trapped in a web is rarely documented. *Catharus ustulatus* weigh approximately 20–30 g, whether migrating through Texas (HMNS VO 2001) or the South American tropics (Brooks et al. in press).

Densities of spider webs at lower forest strata may increase following a hurricane or tropical storm that diminishes the upper canopy. We noticed a high density of active *N. clavipes* at sanctuaries in the region following category 1 Hurricane Humberto. While the effects of hurricanes in northern subtropical forests have often documented direct causes to species population declines (e.g., Willig and Gannon 1994), we document a case of an indirect negative effect to a species due to a natural catastrophe. The reduced canopy from the hurricane can lead to increased densities of Orb Weaver webs at lower forest strata, which could ostensibly trap more migrant songbirds that are more active in the lower strata.

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WHITE-WINGED DOVES NESTING IN PALM TREES

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White-winged Doves (*Zenaida asiatica*) are medium sized New World columbids that ranges from southwest U.S. through Mexico and south throughout Central America (Small et al. 2006). In recent years, breeding populations of White-winged Doves have become established throughout most of Texas with the largest population occurring in San Antonio (Schwertner et al. 2002, West 1993). Herein I report the use of palm trees for nesting by White-winged Doves in an urban lot in San Antonio, Texas.



Nest with egg at base of palm leaf petiole.



Nest with eggs on surface of palm leaf.

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