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THE SUCCESSIVE USE OF THE SAME NEST BY THE LAUGHING DOVE
Streptopelia senegalensis AND ITS SUBSEQUENT USE BY THE
KURRICHAINE THRUSH Turdus libonyanus

In early May 1971 a pair of doves built a nest in the fork of a mango tree which was in the compound of my house at Legon, Ghana. The height of the nest was 5 m. In the period May 1971 to February 1972 the nest was used for five clutches, presumably consecutive ones of the same pair. The first three were successful and young left the nest, but the other clutches both disappeared. During this period material was continually added to the nest so that by February 1972 it had quite a solid base. A second nest was constructed in the same tree in late February at a height of 5.5 m, and the subsequent clutch again disappeared. The first nest was then used again in April 1972. I have no colour ringing evidence that the same birds were involved in both of these clutches but it is highly probable that they were the same and were those involved with the nest in 1971. The reason for believing this is that the compound is small and appears only to support two doves. A further nest appeared in a flame tree some 10 m. from the mango tree in May 1972 and had a clutch of 2 eggs on 13th May and it was apparent that the doves had abandoned the mango tree. This was confirmed by a change of ownership of the nest site in late May 1972. A Kurrichaine Thrush used the old dove's nest as the base for its nest and a clutch of 3 eggs was completed by 1st June 1972. The dates of completion of the various clutches and their success or failure are listed in the Table. From late December 1971 the presence of playing children frequently disturbed the incubating bird and it is likely that the resulting exposure of the eggs made predation easier. In the April 1972 clutch the predator was the Gladiator Shrike Malaconotus blanchoti.

Table 1 - Date of clutches of the Laughing Dove
at Legon and details of their successes

Nest No.	Date of completion of clutch	Clutch size	Whether eggs hatched	Whether young left nest. Number of fledglings in brackets
1	Early May 1971	2	yes	yes (2)
	Mid July 1971*	2	yes	yes (2)
	Early Sept. 1971+	2	yes	yes (2)
	26 December 1971	2	no	-
	18 February 1972	2	no	-
2	6 March 1972	2	no	-
1	8 April 1972	2	no	-

* Data obtained by F. Walsh

+ Data deduced from age of nestlings

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