

thus not edible. The stimulus to brood the egg might have then overcome the stimulus to eat it and incubation was then begun. I suspect that these were immature birds as they did not lay eggs of their own during the breeding season. Unfortunately the ages of the birds were not determined.

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SUNBATHING SWALLOWS ?

Recently an interesting incident concerning the Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) was related to me by an Eketahuna farmer, Mr R. Waldman. In his district the swallow is a new arrival and it was he who noticed the birds' unusual habit of "sunning."

Six swallows were watched for often an hour at a time on a lawn just in front of the Waldman's house. The swallows would lie on their sides, one wing extended, tail fanned out and head back apparently lapping up the sun. This behaviour has been seen several times by Mr Waldman and might be related to the extreme tameness of the swallows living near the house and outbuildings.

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HOUSE SPARROW PLUCKING BARBARY DOVE

Bird watching in the garden has its surprises, however common the species. A few days ago I was puzzled when I saw a House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) making darts at a Barbary Dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) perched on a power line outside the house. The dove avoided the sparrow on this occasion by flying a few feet. This morning, 21 January 1974, my wife saw a sparrow pluck several