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SHORT NOTE

UNUSUAL NEST SITES OF HOUSE SPARROW AND
PARADISE DUCK

On 17 November 1974, while surveying a square for the Mapping Scheme in the upper Lindis (Geordie Hills station) area, I came across two unusual nest sites. The first was that of a House Sparrow in a small matagouri bush, about 2 m from the ground, and right adjacent to, and almost touching, a nest of a blackbird. Both nests were occupied. It was in open tussock country with no large trees or buildings anywhere near, and about 2000' (710 m) above sea-level.

About 2 km away, in an adjoining square, two local men pointed out to me a small old musterer's hut, no longer in use by the station, with about a foot of 'starling straw' on the floor, in the middle of which a Paradise Duck had built her nest and apparently successfully hatched a clutch of about ten. The walls and roof were well inhabited by Starlings. Only the door was open.

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