

## **Fear of Feathers: Do nest decorations deter nest usurpation and brood parasitism?**

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### **Preliminary Results:**

I recorded 34 experiments with wrens and 13 on swallows, although only 25 and 7 respectively, provided useable data. The average video length was 217 m. Wrens failed to hesitate when entering a feathered nest (2.6 min) compared to a non-feathered nest (2.74m) (Wilcoxon T-test;  $n = 25$ ,  $p = 0.14$ ) . Swallows entered an average of 48.28m for feathered and 86.29m for feather-less nest and this too was not significant ((Wilcoxon T-test;  $n = 7$ ,  $p = 0.46$ ), but this was likely due to the small sample size. The unexpected lack of hesitancy by swallows may have been due to the small sample size or perhaps they have no fear for a stimulus they include in their own nests. Of the 25 wren trials and 7 swallow trials, both nests of a trial were entered 96% and 57% of the time, respectively. Cowbird experiments were much more difficult to capture because it is unpredictable which nests and when they will visit, although these experiments will continue in 2023.