
NOTES and LETTERS

ROBINS ATTEMPT TO NEST IN ARTIFICIAL DAISIES IN REGINA

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During the week of 7 May 2013, American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) were seen by me and my folks depositing nesting material in a hanging basket of artificial pink daisies on our deck in south Regina. It is the first time birds tried to set up a nest in a hanging basket in our yard. We are a bit perplexed as to why robins would choose that hanging basket as a nest site when there are much better natural nest sites nearby. It is possible that inexperienced birds chose that hanging basket. My mother initially chose to take away that hanging basket and remove the nest material before any eggs were laid. After two weeks, I hung the hanging basket of artificial daisies on the deck once again. In no time at all, the robin was back putting nesting material in the same basket. This time,

we anchored an aluminum pop can in the centre of the hanging basket. So far, the pop can has stayed in place and has discouraged the robins from using the hanging basket as a nest site. The nest would have certainly failed as the hanging basket sways violently in strong west and northwest winds on our exposed deck.

According to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (CLO), robins and other songbirds have chosen artificial flowers and wreaths as nest sites in other locations in North America. Structures around houses like eavestroughs and outdoor lights have been used as robin nest sites as well. I recommend CLO's Funky Nest webpage (<http://celebrateurbanbirds.org/community/challenges/funky-nests-2013/results/>) for other examples of strange and unusual nest sites in North America.



American Robins attempted to nest in this hanging basket of artificial pink daisies.

- Jerry Bagu

