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**House Sparrow Found Feeding Western Kingbird Nestlings.** — On 24 June 1985 scaffolding was erected at the nest site of a pair of Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*). The nest site was located in west Wichita near the corner of Taft and 119th Street West (Sedgwick County). The nest was approximately 2.5m high in a 6m Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). The nest contained five young kingbirds approximately five days old, and both parents were actively feeding the young and defending the nest site (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Adult Western Kingbird and nestlings.**

On 25 June 1985 at 18:00 the observation blind, which had been erected on the ground that morning, was placed on the scaffolding and photography began. After several visits from the adult kingbirds, a female House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) arrived at the nest and scrutinized the nestlings for several moments before disappearing. At 19:15 she returned with a small green caterpillar and fed a nestling (Figure 2). At 19:22 she again returned and fed while an adult kingbird watched from a perch approximately 2m away. The House Sparrow fed at 19:31 and 19:37 before I had to leave at 19:45. Between visits from the House Sparrow, the adult kingbirds were making 2 to 3 visits to the nest with food.

On 27 June 1985 at 11:45 I again returned to the blind. At 12:00 the House Sparrow



**Figure 2. Female House Sparrow feeding Western Kingbird nestlings.**

arrived and fed the young. She returned with food at 12:06 and had to wait twice while the kingbirds flew in to feed the young. She watched from approximately 0.3m; the kingbirds ignored her. When she did feed, an adult kingbird watched from 2m. The House Sparrow fed again at 12:17, 12:21, 13:11, and 13:14.

At 13:16 a kingbird arrived with a rather large grasshopper. The House Sparrow watched from 0.5m while the kingbird struggled to get one of the young to take it. The House Sparrow then flew to the nest, grabbed the grasshopper from the kingbird and both tumbled out of sight.

At 13:20 a kingbird arrived at the nest and attempted to feed its young. The House Sparrow attacked the kingbird from behind and both fell from the nest. Both birds were quite vocal. The kingbirds fed several more times before I left at 13:45.

On 2 July 1985 I returned to find the young near fledging. Both adult kingbirds were actively foraging and feeding. After 30 minutes of observation there was no sign of the female House Sparrow.

It is not known what circumstances led to the House Sparrow feeding the young Western Kingbirds. There were numerous sparrows in the area and several nests were located in a windbreak of cedars and pines approximately 15m from the next site.

*Bob Gress, Naturalist, Wichita Park Board, 11th Floor, City Hall, 455 N. Main, Wichita, Kansas 67202.*

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