

UNIQUE SHAPE OF A BACHMAN'S SPARROW NEST

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Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) nests are placed on the ground and are usually roofed-over, as in all nests that I have found in Louisiana, North Carolina, and Maryland (Fig. 1).

A nest with four eggs that I located in the Croatan National Forest on 21 May 1987 (Chat 52:2-3) had a shelf or platform leading to the interior of the nest (Fig. 2). Such a shelf, I believe, has not been described in the literature.

The length of the nest from front to back was 18.0 cm., with the cup occupying 8.5 cm. of that distance; the height was 11.0 cm.; the shelf 7.0 cm. in length. The nest weighed 16.7 grams. A total of 1035 pieces of plant material was used in its construction. Dried stems and branchlets of Panic Grass (*Panicum* sp.) were the principal materials. Others used included



Figure 1. Nest of Bachman's Sparrow, Croatan National Forest, North Carolina, May 1987. Nest under tussock of Wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*), at base of clump of Blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.) plants.

Bluestem (*Andropogon* sp.), Wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*), and Long-leaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*).

Nests that I found in the Kisatchie National Forest in southwestern Louisiana were also constructed mostly of Panic Grass.

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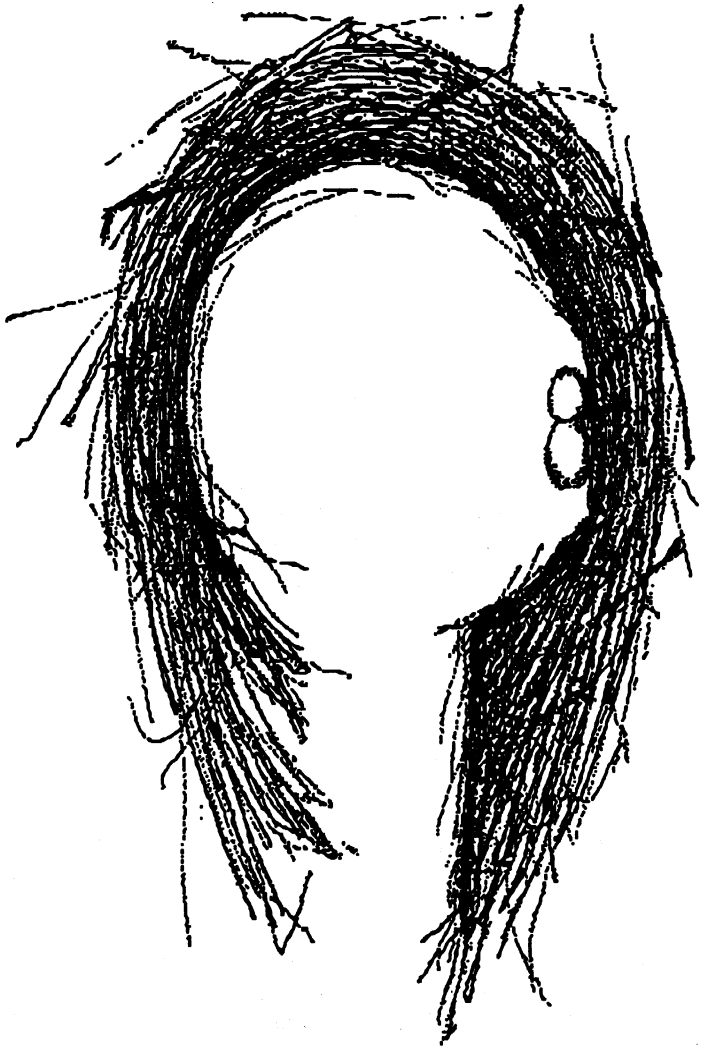


Figure 2. Two-thirds life-size sketch of Bachman's Sparrow nest, Croatan National Forest, N.C. May 1987. Sketch by David A. Coon.