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EGG VIABILITY OF MANIPULATED HOUSE WREN (*TROGLODYTES AEDON*) NESTS

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The effect of extended pre-incubation storage on eggs of asynchronous laying birds has been examined in very few studies. Most studies on egg shelf-life are from commercial poultry egg producers who found that egg viability decreases as the length of un-incubated storage increases. Clutch manipulation studies are often conducted, but only a few studies investigate the effects of egg storage and manipulation on hatching success. We tested whether the short-term extension of un-incubated storage and the transfer of eggs to and from storage sites decreased the viability of house wren eggs in a nest manipulation study. There was no significant difference in the proportion of eggs that hatched that had been removed from nests and stored, and eggs that hatched that were not removed from the nest. This finding suggests that both the shelf-life of eggs and the transfer of eggs have no effect on the viability of the house wren eggs in the manipulation experiment. This implies that short-term storage and careful transfer of bird eggs in manipulation experiments will have minimal effect on the hatching success of those eggs.