

observed at Lake Pasquaney, Bridgewater, N. H., for the past three years. On August 25, 1900, Mr. G. M. Allen noted in the records of Camp Pasquaney twelve Nighthawks (*Chordeiles virginianus*); the most seen on any date that summer. In 1901, on August 22 and 23, I recorded a large flock, over twenty-five birds each day, passing at sundown slowly to the southwest over the lake. On August 22, 1902, at dusk, a flock of fully three hundred were seen migrating in the same direction. Again this year, on August 22, 1903, in the forenoon, nearly a hundred birds were noted passing over to the southwest. Thus for four years a definite migratory movement of these birds in considerable numbers has been observed between August 21 and 25. This migration has been noticed in Saco Valley, and I take it the birds passing over Pasquaney are stragglers from the Pemigewasset Valley migration, which occurs regularly.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Concord, Mass.*

Nests and Eggs of *Cœligena clemenciæ*.—About July 7, in the Huachuca Mountains, Arizona, I discovered a Blue-throated Hummingbird beginning its nest on a shelving rock on the face of a cliff. On the 13th the first egg was laid and on the 15th I took the set of two eggs, nest, and female parent. A single small fern was the only vegetation growing within ten or twelve feet of the nest. The rocks above the nest projected well out from the nest, protecting it from the torrents of rain that falls at that time of the year. The nest was composed chiefly of down from the under side of sycamore leaves, some cocoons and green moss, all firmly bound together with spider webs. The female when started from the nest, instead of flying directly out from the nest and away, would fly straight up the face of the cliff and pass through a rift in the wall. A great fondness is shown by this species to associate itself with rugged places.

This set of eggs, so far as known, is the third in existence. E. W. Nelson speaks of a nest from which a single egg was secured, built in a shrub up on the side of the Vulcan de Tuluca, Mexico. Josiah H. Clark (Auk, XVII, July, 1900, p. 294) tells us of a set of eggs taken by himself in the state of Vera Cruz, Mexico. In 'The Osprey' for February, 1899, I described a nest with two eggs I took on May 31, 1897, in these same mountains, built in a clump of maiden-hair ferns growing from the side of a wall of rock—the side of a deep gorge. The set of eggs taken this year is now in the collections of the Field Columbian Museum.—GEORGE F. BRENINGER, *Phoenix, Arizona.*

Mortality of Purple Martins (*Progne purpurea*) at Brattleboro, Vt.—During the long rain in June, 1903, the nests in the bird house belonging to William C. Horton of Brattleboro, Vt., became completely water-soaked, and thirty young and two adult Purple Martins were found dead in their nests. The remaining members of the martin colony abandoned the

house, leaving twelve eggs unhatched. Occasionally a few return and fly about as if trying to catch a glimpse of the inside of their home but none have ventured to enter up to this date (July 17).—FRANCES B. HORTON, *Brattleboro, Vt.*

Sand Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) Nesting in Sawdust.—In the summer of 1902, while I was in Franconia, N. H., Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson pointed out to me a pile of sawdust, on the perpendicular face of which, earlier in the season, she had noticed what seemed to be entrances to Sand Swallow nests. The pile is constantly being shovelled away, and at the time of my visit no holes were visible.

This year (1903) Mrs. Slosson wrote me, under date of June 18, that she had been out to the place (on the Easton road) two days before, and seeing a hole in the vertical (newly dug down) side of the sawdust heap, had taken pains to investigate the matter.

"We sat in the carriage," she wrote, and watched the hole, and soon saw a swallow enter it and, immediately after, another. They came out, flew away, and returned, entering the hole again. Each time they went in little clouds of sawdust puffed out like smoke. I got out of the carriage and went up the mound to the hole. I put my hand and arm in as far as I could, but it was not far enough to reach eggs or young, and I was afraid of the mound's coming down upon me. After I returned to the carriage the birds came back, but were very shy of going into the disturbed hole, making several starts, vibrating their wings, then flying away. But in a few minutes they gained courage and again entered the hole. I think there is not the slightest doubt that it is their home. I could find no other hole, but have little question there were others which had been wrecked by the workmen, who had been digging down that side of the pile."

Some days later she wrote: "On Saturday we drove again by the sawdust heap. There were full twenty holes, and apparently all were occupied; swallows flying in and out all the time, a regular colony, just as you see them in a sand-bank. Poor simple creatures, I fear an earthquake—or dustquake—has even now destroyed their work."

I begged her to make absolutely sure of the species, if she had not already done so, though really there could be no reasonable doubt upon that point, and on June 25 she replied: "Well, the species is all right. I verified things yesterday. We went out to the mill, and I went up the steep, sliding mass to the holes, 'where the swallows dustward fly.' About half a dozen of the holes had disappeared, but there were fourteen left. The birds, came about me, and I easily identified them as Bank Swallows, with white throat and a dark band across the breast."

Whether the breeding of Sand Martins in sawdust heaps has ever been recorded I do not know, but the occurrence seems to me of considerable interest, especially because the Sand Martin is the one member of its