

The Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon l. lunifrons*) in Indiana.—On the Ratliff homestead situated just west of Richmond, Indiana, where the writer spent a portion of his life, was found a colony of at least thirty pairs of Cliff Swallows, whose irregular nestings covered a period of more than twenty-five years. The large farm buildings constructed with over-jetting roofs, with roughly-sawed rafters and eave boards, furnished desirable nesting sites for the "Mud Daubers."

A small boggy pond located but a few rods away from the barns furnished the mud that was used in the "adobe," bottle-shaped nests.

Large farm buildings similar to those on the old homestead, were found on neighboring farms, about the eaves of which the swallows nested. These structures were not so far from the before-mentioned pond, but were adjacent to a sluggish stream of water, Clear Creek, upon whose edges the particular kind of wet soil also abounded.

It was not generally known at that time, that it was a peculiar trait of this bird to not nest consecutively, year after year, at the breeding places. It was observed, however, that at times, perhaps a couple of years out of every five, at one or other of the farms, scarcely an individual bird would be seen. This was evidently counterbalanced, by the increased numbers, at the others.

About the year 1885, fire destroyed our barn buildings. And not long after, a similar fate befell the barn on the nearest adjacent farm. In rebuilding, machine-dressed lumber was used and the poor swallows, after repeated trials, had to abandon building their adobe nests, as the mud houses would break from their adhesions to the smoother lumber and fall to the ground. This, with the drainage of the pond, followed by agricultural cultivation, really left the birds nought but to seek other quarters.

A couple of farms, two or three miles away, to the north and along the Clear Creek streams, were selected, and from then until at present, the constantly diminishing numbers have been almost annually nesting. At present, but a mere half dozen pairs are seen.—WALTER S. RATLIFF, *Richmond, Indiana.*

Nesting of the Louisiana Water-Thrush in Massachusetts.—On June 9, 1920, at Huntington, Massachusetts, in company with E. R. Cross I visited a nest of the Louisiana Water-Thrush. We spent at least an hour in careful examination at close range of both adults and one of the young, which I held in my hands. The nest itself was so cleverly concealed that we might have been unable to find it had not the birds, feeding their young, disclosed its location. On the perpendicular moss-covered bank of a small spring brook the bird had hollowed out a place for the nest, the bottom of which was not more than six inches above the running water. The nest was invisible from above, but by getting down on hands and knees and by peering into the hole we could see the young.

While I was trying to get a good close look at one of the young birds,