

rather soft and loose, I found one egg, with its contents still intact, on the ground beneath the entrance. Nearby were the remains of another. A search failed to show any signs of the occupants.

Visits immediately subsequent to this showed no sign of the birds, but early in June, I occasionally saw one of them nearby, never two. I was therefore completely surprised on June 21, after deciding to look at the nest again, to see the widely opened mouths of three young in the beam of my flashlight. They evidently connected every disturbance of their dark retreat with food. The entrance tunnel was about three feet long. But this second attempt to bring out a family was also a failure, for on June 27, the remains of one of the young birds, torn apart by some prowler, were near the entrance of the tunnel; the adults or other young were never seen again.

An interesting sidelight on this occurrence is the fact that the nesting site is less than two miles from the western border of Bristol County, Massachusetts, where attempts have been made to locate a nest of this species in recent years. (See Auk, January, 1934, p. 85.) Mr. A. C. Bent informs me that, so far as he knows, its nest has not been found through the season of 1935.—ALFRED E. EYNON, *Lonsdale, R. I.*

A Colony of Cliff Swallows in Chester County, Pa.—In view of the scarcity of nesting Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon a. albifrons*) in southeastern Pennsylvania it seems desirable to publish the record of a colony. It is located on the farm of Mr. Warren Hughes, in the northern part of Chester County, about three miles from Elverson and about ten miles southwest of Pottstown. Mr. Hughes moved to this farm from Berks County in 1902 and the present large modern barn was built in 1912. The Swallows—a pair—arrived in 1913 or 1914 and built a nest over a nail left by the carpenters on the vertical side of a joist projecting out from the wall and forming the floor of the overhang; it is about nine feet from the ground. The following year two pairs arrived. Mr. Hughes noticed they had some difficulty in making the nest adhere to the joist and nailed a narrow strip along the lower part to furnish a support for the nests; after that they had no trouble. From that time until now the colony has been very slowly growing, though whether at a uniform rate is not definitely known. At the time of my visit on July 4, 1935, there were ten occupied nests and two incompleated nests under the overhang. With them were about an equal number of Barn Swallows, apparently living together in complete harmony. One Barn Swallow nest was only about twelve inches from a Cliff Swallow nest, both containing young. Last summer, (1934), one or two pairs of the Cliff Swallows moved up under the projecting eave, near the peak of the roof, on the same side of the barn, facing south. This summer five occupied nests were observed there; a strip had also been nailed to the rafter there to furnish a sure support for the nests. This makes fifteen occupied nests in all; there are at least fifteen pairs of the Swallows and perhaps two or three more. The nests contained the second brood at the time of my visit and a number of the young of the first brood were on the wing and seen resting on shed roof and telephone wires, mingling sociably with the Barn Swallows. It was learned from Mr. Hughes that the Cliff Swallows arrive in the Spring a week to two weeks after the Barn Swallows and leave about that much later, at the end of the season. The exact dates, unfortunately, are not available. This year, (1935) they were very late and he began to fear they would not come; finally, however, they arrived, eighteen to twenty days after the Barn Swallows.

This summer I ascertained that the Swallows have appeared and nested on three or four farms—a pair in each case—in the neighborhood, and not over a mile from

the Hughes farm in any instance. This may be the beginning of new colonies whose future growth will be watched with interest.

The only other colony of Cliff Swallows, so far as I know, in this part of the country is one just over the line in Berks County. This group is about seven or eight miles in an air line from the one described. It is reported that the Berks County colony was not as strong this summer as the one visited. Mr. Hughes is very proud of his colony and protects the birds carefully.—HORACE D. McCANN, *Paoli, Pa.*

Fish Crow Taken near Harrisonburg, Virginia.—On May 10, 1935, a Crow shot one mile west of Harrisonburg, Va. was sent to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the U. S. Biological Survey and identified as the Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*). Dr. J. Murray of Lexington, Va., has seen and heard this species about Lexington since 1928 (*Auk*, July 1934, p. 381), but reports that this is the first actual specimen taken in the Shenandoah Valley or anywhere inland in Virginia, except in the Washington, D. C., region.—D. RALPH HOSTETTER, *Harrisonburg, Va.*

The Bush-tit of the Southern Great Basin.—In the course of my field work in the Charleston and Virgin Mountains of extreme southern Nevada in 1931, 1932 and 1933, three Bush-tits were collected as a routine matter and with no suspicion at the time that they were other than *Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*. Later on, when making the necessary critical comparisons for a report on the region, it was at once obvious that these birds were not *plumbeus*, at least as that form occurs in the mountains of southeastern Arizona.

Briefly, the differences are that eastern Arizona *plumbeus* possesses a more or less olivaceous back, contrasted with an ashy gray head. The Nevada specimens are clear ashy gray over the whole upperparts, which are concolor with the pileum or very nearly so. In addition, the Nevada birds are slightly paler below and lack a pinkish or brownish tinge which, in fresh plumage, is almost invariably to be seen in *plumbeus*.

In the fall of 1933 the three Nevada specimens were compared with the type and type series of *Psaltriparus minimus cecaumenorum* described from Central Sonora by Thayer and Bangs (*Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.*, 19, No. 4, Feb. 26, 1906, p. 20). The resemblance was exceedingly close, so very close indeed that had more than three Nevada specimens been available I would unhesitatingly have listed them as of the same race. In April of the present year Mr. Laurence Huey and the writer spent a week in the Providence Mountains in southeastern California, one of the principal objects of the trip being the collection of a series of Bush-tits. Five specimens, all adults, were taken, and four of the type series of *cecaumenorum* were subsequently borrowed from the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy for a re-examination.

As a result of these studies the range of *Psaltriparus minimus cecaumenorum* must be extended northwest to southern Nevada and southeastern California. The three southern Nevada and the five Providence Mountains specimens are most extreme in characters; those from Owens Valley (5), the White Mountains of California (21) and Mt. Magruder, Nevada (8), are varyingly intermediate toward *plumbeus*, though apparently closer, in series, to *cecaumenorum*. Dr. Oberholser informs me that specimens in the collection of the Bureau of Biological Survey from the Panamint Mountains and the New York Mountains, California, belong unquestionably in the same category with the southern Nevada and Providence Mountain birds.

Incidentally, I have been urged to provide the southern Great Basin Bush-tit population with a new name because, in the available series, the Sonora birds are not quite so ashy gray above and are slightly paler below. However, when allowance is made for the post-mortem color change which may have taken place in the thirty