

## NESTING OF THE TREE SWALLOW.

*Tachycineta Bicolor.*

BY FRANK L. BURNS, BERWYN, PA.

The Tree or White-bellied Swallow arrives early in April and departs in September. It has long been classed as a migrant in Chester County. Although it breeds in the adjoining county of Lancaster, it has but lately been classed as a rare summer resident in this county. C. B. Ressel in his "Birds of Chester County, Pa.," published in the O. & O., Vol. XIV., Nos. 7, 8 and 9, gives it as such; and B. H. Warren has observed them along the Brandywine several times, during the summer of '89. All previous lists give it as a migrant.

May 18, '89, a friend and myself had the good fortune to discover the completed nest of this bird in a railroad culvert at Valley Forge. The culvert is directly over a creek, which is the dividing line between Chester and Montgomery Counties. At least three more pairs were skimming over the water, or resting on the telegraph wires. At this date the nest contained no eggs; but returning twelve days later, it contained a handsome set of six pure white eggs, varying greatly in length, the first egg being almost one tenth of an inch longer than the last one. The measurements are as follows: .82x.57; .77x.56; .74x.56; .73x.55; .73x.53; .73x.53.

The nest was placed in a crevice of the wall, the mortar having either fallen out or was dug out by the swallows, and was seven feet above the water and fifteen feet from the mouth of the culvert. The nest was composed entirely of dead grass and leaves.