

17, Springwells Township. This was on the margin of a clover field into which the bird frequently flew and where a mate was probably brooding. During 1908 I was not in any of the localities where Dickcissels were previously observed and none were seen elsewhere.

*Detroit, Mich.*

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

THE ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW AND BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER BREEDING IN WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.—May 30, 1901, we located a colony of Rough-winged Swallows in Springfield Township, Oakland County, and all the eight nests examined contained eggs. May 30, 1902, this colony was reduced to three pairs and the two nests examined contained eggs. Assuming this as the proper time to look for sets in Wayne County I made a special trip May 29, 1903, to a suitable locality in Nankin Township. Six complete nests were found, but it was too early for eggs. This was probably a mere seasonal difference, however, for on my next attempt, May 31, 1908, the first burrow opened contained a slightly incubated set of seven eggs. This was on Section 22, Canton Township. Other pairs were noted, but not disturbed.

The Oakland County birds were in a colony like Bank Swallows, but in Wayne County they are strung along the clay banks about five pairs to a mile and sometimes only one pair to a whole township, while in many townships they do not occur at all. I have read somewhere that it is difficult to separate this species from the Bank Swallow while in flight, but this is contrary to my experience. If together the Bank looks smaller, but this can not be considered good identification. The flight of the two species, however, is entirely different, the Bank being sharp and cleaving and the Rough-winged more fluttering and bat alike; but at close range it requires no expert to separate the two species. The brown pectoral band of the Bank contrasts sharply against the white, while the underparts of the Rough-wing have a brownish white appearance without any contrasting color.

On the same day that the Rough-winged Swallow's eggs were taken I located a nest with five slightly incubated eggs of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on Section 22, Canton Township. The nest was about twenty-five feet above the ground in the upright fork of an elm sapling, and although the tree shook and bent beneath my weight madam clung to her treasure with head craned downward. I slowly reached up the other side of the nest, caught her tail between two fingers and jerked her into my hand, all her tail feathers coming out just as my fingers closed. When released she did not even leave the tree, but fluttered about uttering cries of protest. This reminds me of a probable case of heart failure. Many years ago I caught a robin

on her nest, and after a few seconds of struggle her body suddenly became limp. She was dead.

*Detroit, Mich.*

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

The La Rue Holmes Nature Lovers' League, now numbering over three thousand young members, in schools, chiefly, had its origin in the life and conception of a young naturalist, who mourned with intense yearning love over passing nature, but who was called to a higher place of service when but upon the threshold of his contemplated work. Its executive officers are Mr. Waldron De Witt Miller, President; Miss L. Connolly, First Vice-President; Mr. F. N. Marcle, Second Vice-President; Capt. G. C. Musgrove, Treasurer and Recording Secretary; Mrs. Benj. P. Holmes, Secretary; and a Board of twenty-six directors. The Treasurer's report shows receipts of \$322.35 and expenditures amounting to \$181.9, leaving a balance of \$140.40. The following notes have been contributed by members:

Wild geese flew over this house on January 31. It was impossible to tell even the direction of flight, the fog being so intensely dense, their presence being made known by their *hoak, honk*, as they passed by.—*G. K. Holmes, Summit, New Jersey.*

I saw two bluebirds flitting from tree to tree, on, or about January 28.—*S. Teeple, Morristown, New Jersey.*