

clude all of the publications of the society except a "Field Check-list of Nebraska Birds" issued in 1908 and a "Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska" (116 pp.) prepared by a committee of the N. O. U., Messrs. L. Bruner, R. H. Wolcott and M. H. Swenk, and issued in 1904.

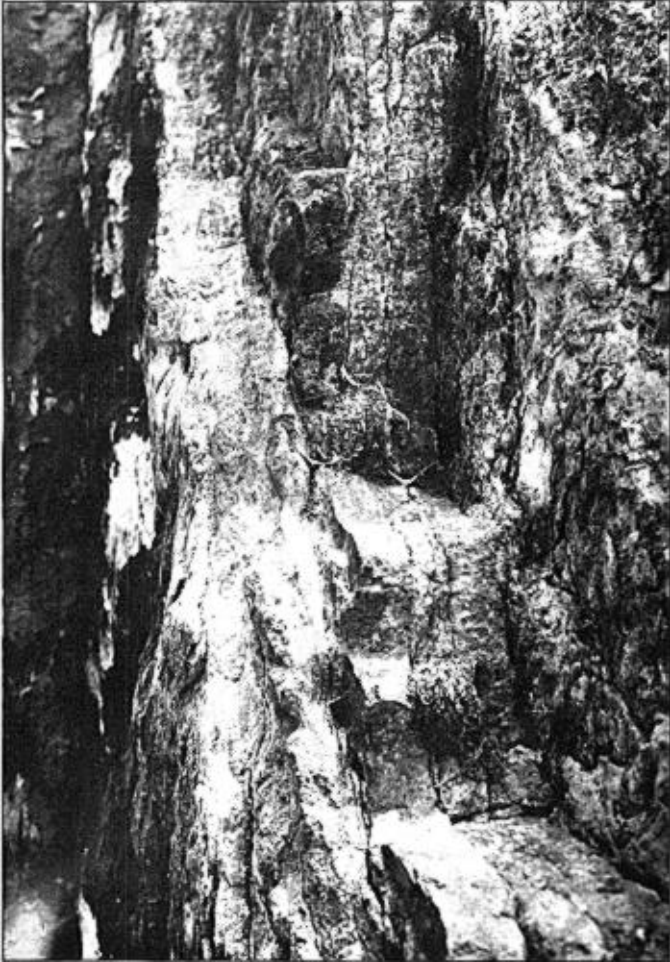
The men who have served as President of the N. O. U. since its organization are: L. Bruner (1899), I. S. Trostler (1900), E. H. Barbour (1901), J. M. Bates (1902), F. H. Shoemaker (1903), R. H. Wolcott (1904), Wilson Tout (1905), S. R. Towne (1906), M. H. Swenk (1907), August Eiche (1908), H. B. Duncanson (1909), L. Sessions (1910), H. B. Lowry (1911), D. C. Hilton (1912), L. Bruner (1913), T. C. Stephens (1914), and R. W. Dawson (1915).

A RECENT INSTANCE OF THE NESTING OF BARN SWALLOWS ON CLIFFS.

NORMAN DE W. BETTS.

It is generally accepted that the breeding places of Barn Swallows before the white men built their hospitable barns were in caves and overhanging cliffs. Definite records of recent reversions to their old haunts are not very numerous and I have not run across photographs of nests so placed. A recent instance of nests built on cliffs near the city of Madison, Wisconsin, seems, therefore, worthy of record.

In the *Auk*, volume XIV, Dawson describes a visit to the headwaters of Lake Chelan in Washington, where he found several nests of the Barn Swallow in a cave hollowed out by the waves to a depth of some twenty feet. Two of the nests contained eggs (July 9, 1895). These birds, however, had probably never had any choice in the matter—no chance to take advantage of modern opportunities. In the report of the Geological Survey of Michigan, 1908, Peet describes the finding of a nest of this species at Menagerie Island, Isle Royale, in Lake Superior. It contained four young, nearly able to fly, on August 17, 1905, and was "built against the base of a cliff about twenty feet above the waves. A shelv-



Barn Swallow Nests on Cliff at Lake Mendota, Madison, Wis.
Photo by N. de W. Betts

ing rock a few feet above protected it from the rain. . . . An old nest was placed a little ways from this one and in a like location."

An interesting observation on the conditions found in the vicinity of Philadelphia 150 years ago is contained in *Kalm's Ornithological Observations*—Trotter in the *Auk*, 1903. The following is quoted from this article:

"They (Barn Swallows) build their nests in houses, and under the roofs on the outside; I likewise found their nests built on mountains and rocks whose top projected beyond the bottom; they build, too, under the corners of perpendicular rocks; and this shows where the *Swallows* made their nests, before the *Europeans* settled and built houses here; for it is well known that the huts of the *Indians* could not serve the purpose of the *swallows*."

The accompanying photograph of two Barn Swallows' nests was taken at Maple Bluff on Lake Mendota, Madison, Wisconsin, in 1915. Nesting of the swallows at this place was observed on July 11, when a nest containing three young was found. Another visit was made the following day to secure a photograph, but the young had left the nest. Two more nests were found during this visit. The nests were placed about eight feet above the water and were well protected from above by the overhanging sandstone cliff. The photograph was made during the winter—when the ice gave better opportunities to set up a tripod.

The nest shown on the left in the picture contained seven eggs when found. The usual clutch of the Barn Swallow appears to consist of only four or five eggs. Perhaps, along with its preference for a lake shore home-site, this bird may have inherited some old fashioned notions in regard to the size of its family.