

The Bachman Sparrow and Lark Sparrow were both found to be breeding here this last summer (1916).

LaGrange, Ill. (Cook County).

JAMES D. WATSON,
EDMUND HUESBERG.

REMARKABLE NESTING OF CLIFF SWALLOWS.

That the cliff swallow is a bird of much adaptability is evidenced by the fact that it has taken to modern improvements and now very generally plasters its curious gourd-shaped nests under the eaves of various buildings, usually barns. A few colonies still cling to their ancestral habits, building against the cliffs; but most have abandoned the old way for the new.

During the summer of 1916 the writer was privileged to observe a still further degree of adaptability. Away up in the backwoods of Eastern Maine, in Washington County, thirty miles from the sea, an opening in the ancient wood marks the site of an old farm, long since abandoned. Some of the buildings, including the house, are gone. The great barn, however, built of massive timbers squared with a broad-axe, fastened together with wooden pins and covered with split-cedar shingles smoothed with the draw-shave, four feet long and laid two feet to the weather, still stands, and firm. Another building is verging toward ruin. The place is known far and wide as the "Bacon Farm."

For many years the cliff swallows have nested upon the great barn in a large colony of several hundred birds. An examination of the place this summer (1916) disclosed the interesting fact that a few pairs had abandoned the eaves and built inside the big barn, side by side with the barn swallows. An examination of the smaller building revealed many nests similarly located, while a "lean-to" shed, open on one side, harbored a number of families within. It is not unknown for these birds to build within an open shed, though this is rare, but the writer can find no reference anywhere to their nesting inside a closed building, like the barn swallows.

A letter received from Dr. Guy C. Rich of Hollywood, California, formerly of Sioux City, Iowa, states that he has found the cliff swallows nesting in the deserted burrows of the sand swallows on the Big Sioux River at Sioux City. Mud pellets were plastered about the entrances and the eggs were observed in the burrows. No record can be found by the writer of any similar nesting. Evidently our knowledge of the nesting of the birds is far from complete. There is much to learn still. Even an amateur may stumble upon some unique or interesting fact. The swallows are particularly interesting, most species having displayed surprising

powers of change and adaptation. They are true avian progressives.
MANLEY B. TOWNSEND.

COMPARATIVE MID-WINTER TEMPERATURES.

The diagram shown herewith has been compiled by the U. S. Weather Bureau and represents the average morning tempera-

