

THE BANK SWALLOW.—As a bird of Lorain Co., Ohio, the Bank Swallow has been considered common in summer, breeding in small numbers in suitable places. The larger number have been found nesting in the clay banks fronting on Lake Erie, but even here occurring in colonies of scarcely a dozen pairs. But this season there is a colony of about five hundred pairs nesting in a clay bank, the top of which is scarcely above the storm-wave mark. This colony is but a short distance from the banks where a few pairs of Swallows have nested every year. The nest cavities lie along the face of the bank from one to ten feet below the top of the bank, and are so numerous in places that the partitions of earth between them have fallen out, leaving one large cavity. The perpendicular face of the bank is worn smooth by the feet and wings of the birds as they alight.—LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

NOTES FROM PENNSYLVANIA.—This winter a flock of Pine Grosbeaks have been in our woods. I saw them first December 7, but think they had been here a month before that, as I recognized their note as one heard before but not identified. They are still here (April 8), as yesterday two females were near my door on the ground eating dry dead leaves. I find they are walkers, though they hop sometimes as well. When first seen I could find none among them in full male plumage, but many with patches of pinkish-red in all sorts of variations; but about March 1st I saw three males in full dress. Several times I have heard their song, delivered from the top of a tall tree, where the singer remained a long time repeating his delightful notes, but always as if *whispered*, low, under the breath, we should say, if it were a person singing. The song has much in common with that of the Purple Finch. I have heard other birds whisper their songs (if that is the proper way to express my meaning)—the Robin and Wood Thrush. Once a Wood Thrush sang three days near our house, and his voice sounded hoarse, as if he had such a cold he could not bring out the notes as he wished to, and it seemed to trouble him very much. There had been severe, long continued storms, and I dare say he had a cold. Another time, early in the Spring, a Robin always missed one note in his song, and that appeared to come from a huskiness in his throat. It was always the same note that failed to materialize. In the same way a White-crowned Sparrow, one spring during his call upon us, always skipped one note in his song. The same note each time and an interval left for that note. I heard this three days in succession. Once I saw two White-crowned Sparrows sing a duet. They were taking their breakfast from the lawn and not more than a yard

from the house, singing between mouthfuls, when the two birds hopped toward each other, lifted their heads and sang, together and alternately, in a very sweet and friendly manner, and then returned to their coffee and rolls.—MRS. T. D. DERSHIMER, *Squaretop, Wyoming Co., Pa.*

HORNED GREBE, *Colymbus auritus*, in CHESTER CO., PENN.—On the 21st of April, 1896, an employe of the Pennsylvania railroad handed me a female Horned Grebe, *Colymbus auritus*, which had been picked up close to the track at Paoli, Chester county, early in the morning of that date. It had undoubtedly met its death through violent contact with the overhead wires, although I could find no injury except a slight cut at the tip of one wing. It was in fine plumage and exceedingly fat. Its stomach contained a quantity of green moss and fragments of water beetles, probably secured from one of our fresh water streams. What caused this decidedly aquatic species to venture so far from any considerable body of water, I am unable to venture an opinion, as we have had no considerable storm for some time previous to the date of its capture.—F. L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Penn.*

THE ATTACHMENT OF LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES TO PREVIOUS NESTING SITES.—How many collectors are aware that Shrikes will return annually to the same locality to build their nests? Early in May, 1891, I found a Loggerhead Shrike's nest in a certain tree within a mile of my home, and took the set of six eggs. The birds rebuilt in a neighboring tree and in a couple of weeks I took the second set of five eggs. A third set was laid and the young were successfully reared by the Shrikes, who built the nest on the site of the first one. In 1892 I happened to be passing that way, and to my surprise I found a nest with five eggs, occupying the site of the previous year. I took these and the birds at once rebuilt in the same place, rearing the young this time. In 1893, 1894 and 1895 I again took sets from the same site, and in each case the birds rebuilt and reared their young in the same tree. I am now wondering whether this year will find them on deck again or not, but I am very confident that I will take a set of eggs there early in May. I have knowledge of two other pairs of these birds which have nested for three years very near the same localities, but only in one case have they occupied the same tree, this occurring on the first and third years that the birds were observed. There cannot be any reasonable doubt that it is the same birds which return yearly to their former nesting places. Other collectors in this locality have informed me that they have taken nests in the same vicinity