

Purple Martins that I watched near North Adams, Mass., in 1895, and Mr. Brewster tells me that he found a pair of these birds breeding in a similar situation in Colebrook, N. H., in 1896. Probably many of the readers of 'The Auk' who live in a Martin region are familiar with this nesting habit of the Martin, though I do not remember to have seen any mention of it in print. The late Frank Bolles ('Boston Post,' Feb. 3, 1891) facetiously remarked that the House Sparrow's propensity to build its nest and rear its young "on the edge of Hades" (*viz.*, in electric-lamp reflectors) was sufficient evidence that it was the offspring of evil and justly under the ban of the Commonwealth. I had always deemed this a just count against the Sparrow, until I discerned the same disposition in our own favorite Martin! I hope the lamp-tenders of Vergennes discriminate between Martins and Sparrows in their daily visits to the lamps. — WALTER FAXON, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

The Tree Swallow Breeding in Virginia. — The second edition of the A. O. U. Check-List gives the breeding range of *Tachycineta bicolor* as "breeding from the Fur Countries south to New Jersey," etc. Dr. Rives in his 'Birds of the Virginias,' page 77, says of this species: "Common summer resident of the Tidewater region from April to September, but rare away from the rivers." He mentions no instance of its breeding, however. Mr. E. J. Brown, formerly of Washington, tells me that in May, 1894, he found a nest containing eggs, on Smith's Island, Virginia. Mr. P. H. Aylett, of Aylett, King William County, Virginia, wrote me some years ago about a pair which reared their young one summer at that place. I afterwards saw the site — a cherry stump in a meadow. The birds are fairly numerous on Smith's Island in summer, and I found a nest containing three young, in a hollow tree near the ocean beach, on June 10, 1897. — WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) in Greene and Ulster Counties, N. Y. — On May 29, 1897, I found a pair of Rough-winged Swallows beginning to build in Palenville, Greene County, June 11. The nest with six eggs was procured. At Quarryville (about five miles south of Palenville, being in the extreme northern part of Ulster County) there is a small colony of these birds breeding regularly every year, in the crevices of the rocks. Here I took a male specimen June 27, 1896, and a nest containing five eggs June 29, 1897. These specimens were identified by Mr. Frank M. Chapman. — S. H. CHUBB, *New York City.*

Peculiar Nesting of the Maryland Yellow-throat. — While collecting in a large slough in Jackson County, Minnesota, on June 9, 1897, amid the green rushes where Long- and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were breeding, I ran across a pair of Yellow-throats (*Geothlypis trichas*) in some high rushes in about four feet of water, and upon investigating I found the nest placed almost level with the water in a thick clump of cat-tails, over fifty feet from shore, and right in the midst of a colony of Marsh

conf. 1897 ✓