

The definite movement which has been set on foot by Professor Leon J. Cole, of New Haven, Conn., for tagging birds is worthy of more than passing mention. The aluminum strips used for the tagging—small strips with a number and the words "Notify the Auk, N. Y.," are to be bent around the tarsus of a bird, a careful record kept of the birds so tagged, and this record finally returned to Professor Cole. So many of these tags are being attached to birds this summer that great hopes are entertained that many of the birds bearing tags will be heard from. By this means it should be possible to determine with accuracy the wanderings of the birds. It is only by some such means that individual birds may be surely recognized.

---

FIELD NOTES.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Actodromas bairdii*) IN WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.—In the Wilson Bulletin for December, 1908, on page 207, Mr. P. A. Taverner credits Mr. Albert Jones with taking a Baird's Sandpiper on September 13. This bird was shot and identified by Mr. Walter C. Wood, who presented it to Mr. Jones. The Baird's Sandpiper was anything but rare during the autumn of 1908. I examined specimens taken on various dates by Walter C. Wood and Herbert H. Spicer. Personally, I did not meet with it until August 26, when I noted a flock of seventeen and took a specimen. From that date they were present on all visits until last seen on September 27. I secured my last birds September 23. These were all on the mud and water swale on P. C. 667, Ecorse Township, mentioned by Mr. Taverner.

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

THE DICKCISSEL IN WAYNE COUNTY, MICH.—In the Wilson Bulletin for June, 1905, and March and June, 1907, I gave my local observations of the Dickcissel prior to 1907 and will now bring them up to date. June 30 1907, I crossed the belt of open lands where the greater number of Dickcissels were seen the previous year. My attention was directed to a male by his song and I took the time to locate the nest. This was found by beating to and fro through the weeds until the female flushed. It was well concealed and placed in the thickest kind of weed growth about three feet above the ground and contained two fresh eggs. This was on P. C. 619, Grosse Pointe Township. No more birds were seen, but when I returned to this nest, July 7 three additional pairs were present. July 1 a male spent much time singing from a telegraph wire by the roadside on Section

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