

mains there as those of the Yellow Rail. The weather had evidently sent them forth on their migration.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus (Bobolink). On June 23, 1915, at the same place as recorded under the Yellow Rail, one of the boys asked me whether the Bobolink always nested down in the clover. I said no, they often nest in clumps of ragweeds such as this one. With these words I poked the barrel of my gun through the wire fence into a clump of ragweeds, when up went a bird. It seemed too little for a Bobolink, so I quickly collected the only male that was hovering around, with one barrel and the female with the other one. Both specimens are small birds, as the following measurements show: ♂, length 158mm, bill 11mm, wing 94mm, tarsus 22mm, tail 61mm; ♀, length 147mm, bill 11mm, wing 85mm, tarsus 21mm, tail 57mm. The nest was abnormal. Mr. Gerald Alan Abbott, the well known Oölogist, says it reminds him of the nest of the Lazuli Bunting and that he has seen one nest of the Dickcissel similar to it. The eggs are still more abnormal. At a first glance it looks as if you had four rather large Field Sparrow eggs before you and it is only after a close examination that you begin to see that there is still some of the characteristic Bobolink coloration to be found. Professor Lynds Jones says they are all four runs. When blown the eggs showed a little blood, thus proving that these eggs were fertile. The measurement is 18.5x13.5; 17.5x13; 17x13.5; 17.5x14.

It is to me the most perfect and interesting case of abnormality of individual aberration. However, the members of the Wilson Club may think differently and have here at this, their third annual meeting, a splendid opportunity to distinguish themselves by creating a new sub-species. (The birds, nest and eggs were placed on exhibition for the members of the club and they all agreed that it was one of the most peculiar things they had ever seen, and Dr. Swope of Cincinnati, President of The Ohio Audubon Societies, stated that the killing of the birds, the taking of nest and eggs was certainly most justifiable under the circumstances.)

W. F. HENNINGER.

NOTES ON THE BARN SWALLOW.

DURING the spring and summer of 1915, three pairs of Barn Swallows nested in the farm buildings of our home, and all three pairs failed to raise any young.

The first pair that arrived occupied an old nest in a cow stable on May 23. This pair was driven away by House Wrens which, on June 25, occupied the swallow's nest, and afterwards raised a brood of young. Another pair patched up an old nest in a scale

shed, and I hoped they would raise a brood of young, but for some reason, after occupying their nest a short time, they abandoned it. A pair of House Wrens nested in a box on the outside of the shed, and they might have punctured some of the swallow's eggs, causing them to leave, or they might have been frightened away, as there was much weighing done on the scales below their nest. After the swallows had left, their nest was examined and one unfertile egg was found in it.

The third pair arrived about the middle of June, and for several days were seen examining all the buildings about the place, looking for a nesting site. They finally selected an old chicken house in which to build their nest. Over the door of the chicken house there is a large opening, which is left open during the summer, and through which the swallows passed. The site of the nest was in the top where the rafters meet, about fifteen feet from the ground. Every evening, when gathering the chicken eggs, I would look up to see how the swallows were progressing with the building of their nest. On June 29 I saw that the nest was done. The next evening, when looking up at the nest, it appeared as if one of the swallows was clinging to the under side of the nest, but on looking closer I saw that the swallow was free from the nest and dangling in the air below it. I then knew that the swallow was tangled up in the nesting material, but hoped that it might yet be alive. I quickly procured a ladder and on it climbed to the nest. My hopes were in vain, as when the nest was reached the swallow, a beautiful male, was already dead. In building their nest the swallows had used much horse hair for nesting material, and with one of these the swallow had accidentally hung itself. One end of a long hair was wrapped around its neck twice, and also around one wing; the other end was plastered into the nest, a strong pull being necessary to get it loose. I thought surely the female swallow would leave after such a tragedy, but a few days later was surprised to see her sitting on the nest. I also saw her flying about with another swallow, but do not know whether it was a new mate, or if the one that hung itself belonged to another pair. Every evening, when I entered the chicken house, she would leave her nest and fly out. This was kept up until July 24, after which date she was never seen on her nest, or in the chicken house. The nest was examined on August 19, when one unfertile egg was found in it.

The swallows, after leaving, or being driven from their nests, could be seen nearly every day flying over the fields and meadows catching flies. During September, a few weeks before departing for their winter homes, they would come into the barn yard every

day and fly about the buildings in which their nests were located, but would never enter them. The weather for this vicinity on October 7 and 8, was cold and blustery. There was a high northwest wind and the temperature was near the freezing point. On these two days a flock of about 100 Tree Swallows stayed here, flying low over the pastures which, on account of the excessive rains we had during the summer, were grown up with ragweeds. Sometimes the swallows would settle down into the weeds and could be seen fluttering about as if catching flies and other insects, which were probably benumbed by the cold. In flying about the swallows would come very close to where I was working, giving me a good opportunity to identify them.

With this flock of Tree Swallows were seen on each day two Barn Swallows, which was quite a surprise to me, as my record of the last ones seen for 1914, was nearly a month earlier. Following is my record of the migration of the Barn Swallow for the last two years:

1914, first seen April 30; becomes common May 2; last seen September 9. 1915, first seen April 26; becomes common May 8; last seen October 8.

J. J. SCHAFER.

Port Byron, Ill.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO VERNACULAR NAMES FOR THE FLICKER.

In my former compilation (Wilson Bulletin, No. 31, pp. 4-12) I have included 123 local names, many being "very local or very slight orthographical or cacographical variants"; and for convenience of reference I now bring the nine additional aliases together. My former list included all of Ernest Ingersoll's Forest and Stream enumeration, and I am pleased to have conformation of the late W. W. Colburn's contribution, "Willcrisson," cited for the Dismal Swamp region, by W. L. McAtee, who has found it used on Church Island, N. C., and to quote his words: "Such instances renew one's faith in the accuracy of observation and the reliability of spoken words of unlettered people."

Dishwasher, Maryland (Barton's Fragments of Natural History of Pennsylvania, p. 15). This name is also applied to the Pied Wagtail in some parts of England, according to Montagu and Newton.

Cotton-backed Yellowhammer, Florida, "The prefix to distinguish it from the Red-bellied Woodpecker, which is sometimes called the 'Yellowhammer,'" (Wil. Bul. No. 71, p. 127).

Flecker, Pennsylvania (Barton's Frag. Nat. Hist. Pa., p. 1).