

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.

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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).

Flicca (Stone, Bird Migration Records of William Bartram, Auk, xxx, 1913, 341).

Flying Auger, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. (McAtee, Local Names of Water Fowl and Other Birds, p. 19).

Golden-Headed Woodpecker or Yellowhammer (Hurst's New Nuttall's Dictionary, Suppli., p. 871). Citation by Miller, Oologist, xxxi, p. 10. A book name that I was inclined to reject as a typographical error, but after all, it is no more ridiculous than some other names in current use.

Graywacker, Eastern Shore of Maryland (Oberholser), (McAtee, *Ibid.*).

Looping Bird, Church's Island, N. C. (McAtee, *Ibid.*).

Rampike, Newfoundland (Montreal Family Herald and Weekly Star, Oct. 18, 1911). For which I am under obligations to Mr. McAtee.

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THE NEST LIFE OF THE WESTERN HOUSE WREN.

(Abstract.)

Read before Wilson Ornithological Club, third annual meeting, Columbus, Ohio, 1915.

BY ALTHEA R. SHERMAN.

Studies of the behavior outside of the nest of *Troglodytes ædon parkmani* were made for the most part from birds nesting in boxes in various places in the yard, and the inner activities of its home were studied through peepholes that commanded views of the inside of nests, situated in a barn. From these vantage points was watched the progress of the nests from their building, until they were deserted by the young. The duration of the nest period, as is the case with other species, is subject to considerable variation, the average time for nest occupation, counting from the depositing of the first egg, has been found to be thirty-two days.

There has existed among ornithologists a general misconception relating to the amount of light the nest receives through the hole. A mere glance into the boxes provided with peep-holes is sufficient to convince any one that the illumination of the nest is ample, and differs little in intensity from the lighting of most of our living-rooms.

To feed and care for all the nestlings alike is the normal conduct of a bird, and the abnormal happens, when a portion of a brood thrives vigorously, while others die from starvation. Deaths from starving in the nest of the Western House Wren were noted to result from causes very different from those that brought death to the young of the Northern Flicker.