

NOTES ON THE FALL MIGRATIONS OF 1916 IN  
CHICAGO AREA.

Our observations during the fall migration of 1916 have been rather more extensive than hitherto and have yielded many good records. Our migration dates made during the last four years have been extended in a good many instances. Some of the dates made in this fall migration are both earlier and later than Mr. B. T. Gault's migration dates of Glen Ellyn, which is only a few miles west of LaGrange.

There are several birds which are on a decided increase in this region, these being the Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and Cardinal. The Titmice were first noted in any great numbers during the winter of 1915-16, and since then have been seen very often. On August 14, 1916, eight of these birds were observed at Riverside, two or three from all appearances being young birds. This leads to the conclusion that they may have nested in the vicinity.

The Carolina Wren, although it has been of regular occurrence in the past, did not become common until August of this year. Since then we have noted it in many different localities, chiefly on account of it being in full song. The Cardinal has been very common this year and is undoubtedly increasing in the Chicago area. These three birds are clearly extending their range northward.

Among the strictly migrants the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Myrtle Warbler, and Rusty Blackbird have been more abundant than usual this fall.

On September 1st the American Crossbills appeared and have been numerous since that time. On October 21 the Redpolls put in an appearance, which is unusually early. Last Saturday, November 4, a flock of 10 were watched for a long time at Riverside. They were exceedingly tame. White-throated Sparrows have been entirely absent this fall. Other interesting dates are the following:

Palm Warbler, last seen October 28, 1916.

Ring-necked Pheasant, seen October 21, 1916.

Black-throated Blue Warbler, last seen October 14, 1916.

Orange-crowned Warbler, last seen October 28, 1916.

Black and White Warbler.

Tree Swallow, last seen October 22, 1916.

Barn Swallow, last seen September 30, 1916.

Greater Yellow-legs, last seen October 28, 1916.

Golden Plover, November 5, 1916.

Red-backed Sandpiper and Black Bellied Plover, November 6, 1916 (*L. Michigan*). The Red-headed Woodpeckers are staying this winter for the first time since 1913.

The Bachman Sparrow and Lark Sparrow were both found to be breeding here this last summer (1916).

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#### REMARKABLE NESTING OF CLIFF SWALLOWS.

That the cliff swallow is a bird of much adaptability is evidenced by the fact that it has taken to modern improvements and now very generally plasters its curious gourd-shaped nests under the eaves of various buildings, usually barns. A few colonies still cling to their ancestral habits, building against the cliffs; but most have abandoned the old way for the new.

During the summer of 1916 the writer was privileged to observe a still further degree of adaptability. Away up in the backwoods of Eastern Maine, in Washington County, thirty miles from the sea, an opening in the ancient wood marks the site of an old farm, long since abandoned. Some of the buildings, including the house, are gone. The great barn, however, built of massive timbers squared with a broad-axe, fastened together with wooden pins and covered with split-cedar shingles smoothed with the draw-shave, four feet long and laid two feet to the weather, still stands, and firm. Another building is verging toward ruin. The place is known far and wide as the "Bacon Farm."

For many years the cliff swallows have nested upon the great barn in a large colony of several hundred birds. An examination of the place this summer (1916) disclosed the interesting fact that a few pairs had abandoned the eaves and built inside the big barn, side by side with the barn swallows. An examination of the smaller building revealed many nests similarly located, while a "lean-to" shed, open on one side, harbored a number of families within. It is not unknown for these birds to build within an open shed, though this is rare, but the writer can find no reference anywhere to their nesting inside a closed building, like the barn swallows.

A letter received from Dr. Guy C. Rich of Hollywood, California, formerly of Sioux City, Iowa, states that he has found the cliff swallows nesting in the deserted burrows of the sand swallows on the Big Sioux River at Sioux City. Mud pellets were plastered about the entrances and the eggs were observed in the burrows. No record can be found by the writer of any similar nesting. Evidently our knowledge of the nesting of the birds is far from complete. There is much to learn still. Even an amateur may stumble upon some unique or interesting fact. The swallows are particularly interesting, most species having displayed surprising