

1887. It has often been said that Professor Baird did more to harmonize and coordinate the work of the ornithologists of his time than any one who lived before or after him. While stationed at Washington, during the period following the Civil War, he carried on a voluminous correspondence with observers throughout the land and built up an interest which culminated in the founding of the U. S. National Museum. This work was done largely before the advent of the numerous bird journals which sprang into existence throughout the eighties and early nineties. A permanent and appropriate memorial will be decided upon by a committee upon which The Wilson Club will be represented by Dr. Lynds Jones.

The Outdoor League of America is the name of a very comprehensive organization recently launched at St. Louis by lovers of nature interested in its conservation and perpetuation. The subject of bird reservations was among the objects outlined for its activity. Invitations had been extended to all organizations interested in the great outdoors and The Wilson Club was ably represented by Mr. Otto Wildman of St. Louis.

Messrs. Herbert L. Stoddard and George Shrobbree of the Milwaukee museum, spent the month of July on Bonaventure Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They were engaged in securing material for new sea bird groups for the museum and in making motion pictures of the wealth of sea bird life to be found there.

Attention is called to the announcement on another page of the coming annual meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union and of The Wilson Club, in Chicago, during the week of October 23. It is hoped that W. O. C. members will turn out in record numbers. There will be no meeting during Christmas week as heretofore held.

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## FIELD NOTES

### BREEDING OF THE BARN SWALLOW IN TENNESSEE

The summer range of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*) is not generally known to extend as far south as Tennessee. Various local lists from this state, as well as Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, fail, as far as I am able to ascertain, to mention instances of its nesting. In Arkansas, Howell's list mentions one old record of its having bred at Clinton, while in North Carolina Pearson mentions but three breeding records known for that state. In Kentucky, which lies north of and adjacent to Tennessee, I have knowledge of its being a fairly common breeder at several points.

My own observations of its breeding in this state are confined to the immediate vicinity of Nashville, where perhaps a half dozen colonies are now, or have been, in existence. The Nashville area is essentially a farming district and the extensive meadows and large barns that go with stock raising would seem to be well adapted to the requirements of this species. However, the bird must be considered as relatively scarce. Two of the four colonies now in use consist of two or three pair, another

of half a dozen, and the fourth, and perhaps the longest established, about twenty-five pairs.

The first colony of which I have record was observed here twenty years ago by my friend, Dr. Harry Vaughn. It was located in a small barn on the campus of Vanderbilt University, then in the suburbs, and consisted of five or six pairs. This colony has long ago ceased to exist. In June, 1917, I noted several Barn Swallows going in and out of an old windowless dwelling which was standing in three feet of water caused by the construction of a large artificial lake. I waded to and into the building and found two nests containing young birds. On May 17, 1918, five pairs were found to be nesting here, two nests containing five nearly fresh eggs and the others held incomplete sets. This colony was seven miles south of Nashville. The following year four pairs made their nests in the building and as usual remained about the lake throughout the summer. During the ensuing winter the old house was removed and the colony was left without a home. However, two pairs were found to have taken up quarters, the next spring, in a large barn two miles further south, and it is not unlikely that they were some of the birds which had been evicted from the dwelling in the lake. This small colony was again in evidence this year.

In 1920 and 1921 two or three nests with eggs were taken from as many localities by boys and in each case the colonies were said to consist of two or three pairs. The localities were within a radius of ten miles of the city.

In July, 1922, I discovered by far the largest colony and one which has apparently been in existence for many years. It was located near Belleview, twelve miles southwest of Nashville, on an extensive stock farm comprising hundreds of acres of pasture lands, a number of barns of all sizes and ages and, most essential to the joy of the swallows, a large stock pond. This colony has been carefully protected by the operator of the farm. In one large old barn, at the pond, were five nests, constructed against the sides of the joists supporting the hay loft and twelve feet from the ground. Another and smaller barn, however, seemed to be the center of activity, and upon investigation it was found to contain about twenty nests.

The ground floor of the barn was used as a shelter and feeding place for cattle, the end being open, and overhead was a hay loft. All of the nests were built on the "bridging," used to stiffen the joists supporting the hay floor, and were within from seven to eight and a half feet of the dirt floor. When I entered the barn it was full of cattle which had sought refuge from the midday sun, and the swallows flew in and out, within a few inches of their backs, apparently unconcerned at their presence. From most of the nests the young had already been fledged, though four still held young, and two held eggs. The latter were five and three respectively and incubation appeared to be advanced. Outside some fifty or sixty swallows skimmed the pasture, but were thickest near the shed where flies were thick. They appeared entirely fearless of my presence, constantly flying within a few feet of me.

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 1, 1922.

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