

There have been a few scattered nests here in previous years but last year I could find only one nest, so while this probably is not strictly a new colony, there is at least a good increase. The two other colonies, both entirely new, were located under eaves of barns on farms, one containing thirty occupied nests and located one and one-half miles southeast from the old colony, and the other about the same distance northwest having about forty occupied nests. English Sparrows had occupied three or four nests in the new colonies but on the whole the Cliff Swallows seemed to be holding their own fairly well. On July 20 there were still quite a number of nests under construction, and this seems late for nest building.

Some thirty or thirty-five years ago it was a common sight to see rows of Cliff Swallow nests under eaves of farm buildings in this vicinity, but these were entirely given up nesting sites probably some twenty or twenty-five years ago, and I think this was mainly due to increase in English Sparrows at that time. Of late years this pest seems rather on the decrease around here. It is to be hoped that these new Cliff Swallow colonies will be able to maintain themselves and that the birds will also spread to other farms in the neighborhood.—EDWIN C. ANDERSON, *Dell Rapids, S. Dak.*

Occurrence of the Russet-backed Thrush in Iowa.—In the Dwight Collection, at the American Museum of Natural History, there is a specimen of the Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*) from Keokuk, Iowa. It is a male, collected May 20, 1907, formerly in the C. K. Worthen Collection, and now No. 26745 in the Dwight Collection. The bird was identified by the late Dr. Dwight and so noted in his catalog. A comparison of the specimen with a series of *H. u. ustulata* shows it to be typical of that subspecies. The back and rump are olive-brown and the upper breast is faintly spotted with a few triangular marks. The tail is a slight shade grayer. Measurements in millimeters are: Length, 172; wing, 99 and 100; tail, 71; exposed culmen, 13.8; tarsus, 30; middle toe, 17.5, and bill from nostril, 9.2. I know of no other record of this bird from the state of Iowa.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

The Raptor's Mistake.—An interesting episode was witnessed on a tract of meadow land, with grass six or eight inches high, near Liberty Creek, in Keokuk County, Iowa. There was a woodland on one side of this meadow and a group of farm buildings on the other.

A large Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis borealis*) came out of the timber and leisurely flew around over the meadow, hovering over one point a moment for special inspection. Then he flew back to the woods again. A few minutes later he flew out and hovered over the same place, then returned to the woods as before. After having performed this round trip movement several times, the Hawk finally flew to this point and plunged down into the meadow. Instantly there was a mighty commotion. Hissing, flopping, spitting, caterwauling; and one could see feet, claws, wings and tails whirling about just over the grass. The air was full of fur and feathers for a few moments, then the Hawk made his getaway, and with feathers much ruffled flew for the timber as fast as his wings could carry him. And an old gray tom cat went with great bounds in equal haste for the farm buildings! Both Tommy and hawk were licked but still able to go.—E. D. NAUMAN, *Sigourney, Iowa.*