

in barns, whilst the Cliff Swallows' nests are very numerous in sand banks on the shores of rivers. There is a Scandinavian tradition that the swallows hovered over the cross of our dying Lord on Mount Calvary, saying, "Svala! Svala!" [Console! Console!]; hence its name, "Swallow" or bird of consolation.

A very familiar bird to every canoeist on our streams and lakes is the Belted Kingfisher, a medium sized bluish-gray bird, its breast being white and rusty-red, and its head white with a bluish-gray crest. As its name implies, it feeds on fishes of which its capacious mouth allows him to swallow relatively large ones; flying in a very rapid manner over the quiet surface of a pond or lake, the bird can see in the clear waters, where its food is to be found; when a school of small fishes is discovered, the Kingfisher stops his onward flight and remains stationary in the air for a few seconds taking his aim, and suddenly with a headlong dash plunges into the stream and seldom returns without its prey.

Very showy birds are the Blue Jay, the Scarlet Tanager, the Baltimore Oriole, and last and least in size but not in beauty, the ruby-throated Hummingbird; the first is a medium-sized bird of delicate blue color with black and white markings; the Scarlet Tanager, larger than the sparrow, is of a brilliant scarlet color with black-colored wings; it is a very fine sight indeed to see one of these birds among the bright green foliage of the trees in the beginning of summer; the next, the Baltimore Oriole, is more of an orange-red color than the preceeding and a little smaller in size. But the gem among all our birds is certainly the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. So small is this bird that it is often mistaken for a large Hawk-Moth; the delicate metallic green sheen of its wings and the very bright ruby-color of the breast of the male bird are unequalled by any other denizen of the air. The Hummers are tropical birds and the Ruby-Throated is the only species to be found in Eastern North America.

If the Canary Islands can boast to be the original home of our noted domestic songster, we have in our country our Goldfinches which vie in beauty and song with the tropical birds. The male American Goldfinch is of a sulphur yellow color, the crown of its head