

## WHAT THE SWALLOWS DID.

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During the summer of 1901 there were two pairs of swallows nested at our barn—a pair of Cliff Swallows outside and a pair of Barn Swallows inside. The Cliff Swallows were late in coming and were probably driven from some other barn by having their nest destroyed. They repaired the remains of a nest built the summer before, but left the entrance or door much larger than is usual for that species, it being fully four inches by one and one half, the ordinary way being to leave the door about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. At the time, we wondered why they did not finish building.

The eggs were duly laid, sat upon for about twelve days and hatched. The weather during this time had been warm, and some days were extremely so. The young were well supplied with food; and, not until they were able to meet the old birds at the door when they came with food, was the door closed to the usual size.

Then the question to us was, Why did they not make the doorway of the usual size, when the nest was first built? Why did they change it after the young were nearly fledged? After some consideration, we concluded, first, that the nest was cooler and better ventilated by having the large doorway, and, secondly, that less work was required to build it thus; we accordingly congratulated ourselves on having such an intelligent pair of swallows.

When we had solved, this question to our own satisfaction, they began to build another nest which was left unfinished. Now we thought our answer to the first question was surely wrong. It could not be to save work that the doorway was left large, for here they were making another nest.

The days were still very warm, and we found that the old birds, when resting from feeding the young, used this other nest to sit on in the shade of the eave of the barn instead of sitting on the roof as other people's Swallows are wont to do, or else are crowded in the nest with the young.