

Frequenting the one locality would give colour to the first theory.

Swallows.—On the 28th instant, white-breasted swallows were observed on the Ridean river, between Cummings' bridge and the falls. I could not determine whether they were the white-breasted or the bank swallow.

Bluebirds.—Although I have not seen any of them myself, I have reliable authority that they have been seen in the closing days of the month, but I could not get the actual date of their arrival. Probably 27th or 28th.—H. B. SMALL.

ORNITHOLOGY.

Nature has provided us with no more delightful or interesting objects for study than the birds. They are our "feathered poets of the grove" each with his own peculiar strain of melody; now sweet, now sad, now boisterous, now seeming to tell in long and varied song some tale that thrills us as we listen. What wonderful and beautiful markings they have! There are few who can fail to enjoy the sight of a brilliantly coloured or delicately marked bird, or when the hidden nest is found, the eggs unrivalled in colouring even by the bird which laid them. To watch them building their nests, catching their food, hopping about from branch to branch apparently with no object, or stretching their wings for a long flight, is a pleasure which can be shared by all. But half the joy is lost unless we have learned the songs and calls of the different birds; unless we recognize them whenever seen and in whatever plumage they are dressed, be it in that of the full-grown male, the less brightly marked female, the young bird, or in that of the winter season; unless we can tell them from their habit of flight even when too distant for the colour of the bird to be ascertained; or unless when we find the tiny nest in the thicket, or the large one in the lofty tree we know what bird has built the nest or what bird has laid the eggs.

It is hoped that throughout this year a greater interest will be manifested in our birds. Here is a field for the young people with untold pleasure in store for all who are eager for it. The leaders of the Club will most gladly assist any who desire to begin the study of our birds.