

in its natural habitat by the advent of man. Instead of pasting its nest in the inside of large hollow trees it now pastes them on the inside of our chimneys. They are tireless fliers and practically never settle, unless their clinging against the rough surface of the inside chimney walls for the night, can be called settling. They can be told from swallows by their narrower, more sickle-shaped wings, their less gliding flight, and their flying in and out of chimneys. The color is brownish-black all over.

A bird closely related to the Swift, and like it, the only member of its family occurring in Eastern Canada, is the tiny Hummingbird, *Trochilus colubris*. It is so well known that no description is necessary. It is the smallest bird we have; its very smallness precludes confusion with other birds. But, though small, it is none the less hardy and active; it goes up to the Arctic circle and beyond, and breeds even in cold Labrador. The one found with us is the *Ruby-throated* Hummingbird, so named from the ruby throat of the male, the female being whitish below and the back of both sexes iridescent green. They are, like their small downy, lichen-covered nest, perfect gems. To invite them to your home, all that is necessary is to plant bright flowers in your garden, and the invitation will surely be accepted.

#### A NEW NATURE STUDY BOOK.

The NATURE STUDY COURSE, with suggestions for teaching it. By John Dearness, M.A.—Many Nature Study books have appeared recently. The latest addition to these is by John Dearness, Vice-President of the London (Ont.) Normal School. It is a small, convenient-sized octavo of 206 pages, well illustrated but not overloaded with pictures. The author treats his subjects in a succinct and definite manner. The introductory part is particularly well stated, and it is probable that most readers will agree with Mr. Dearness's views as there expressed. The ideas of the advocates of Nature Study are still somewhat diverse, both as to the choice of material and the way to use it, and, even with regard to the limits of this important branch of education. Mr. Dearness's idea seems to be the right one, that the choice of subjects will depend chiefly on the interest the pupils have or can be led to have in any common natural object. The method of treatment, including the suiting of it to existing conditions, will show the teacher's power of leading and training. This small work, which is issued at the moderate price of 60c., is worthy of perusal by everyone interested in training boys and girls to become useful citizens.

JAMES FLETCHER.