

by a very disagreeable parasite closely allied to the obnoxious bed bug, in fact many persons still believe that these insects are identical, and, as a result, condemn the swallows for spreading the true bed bug throughout the country. Needless to say, however, this is not the case, for though the unsavoury odour is identical a casual examination will convince any observant person of the difference between the two insects.

The colonies referred to above proved no exception to the general rule, in fact the nests inside and outside were simply swarming with this bug (*Æciacus hirundinis*), as were also the cliffs below the nests and for several feet on either side of them, while every crack and cranny was full of the disgusting insects in all stages of growth; many were so inflated with blood as to appear quite red. There was, also, an almost incessant shower of the bugs falling upon the earth beneath, and during the short time I spent in examining and collecting a few of the creatures, fully a dozen dropped upon my hat and clothes, so that I was glad to discard them and have a dip in the river. Afterwards I tried to entice a couple to bite me, but in vain, showing that they evidently preferred to confine themselves to the feathered tribe.

To me it seems remarkable that the young birds managed to survive at all. While the substance sucked from the parents during the brooding period must be very great, yet, with the exception of three partly fledged young found dead some twelve feet away, which may have been victims, no evil effects were observed.

The colonies were undoubtedly old ones, as was indicated by the broken nests partly built upon, and also by the great quantity of refuse beneath. This is doubtless why the bugs were present in such abundance.

It has not been my good fortune to run across more than about a dozen colonies of Cliff Swallows, but all these have invariably been situated on cliffs or barns either facing the north or east, so that they were sheltered from the sun during the hottest part of the day. My experience with Bank Swallows is that they always choose the north or eastern cliffs facing the sun. Perhaps this is merely a coincidence, but be that as it may, either the difference in habit or situation of nests seems to be responsible for a lack of bugs among the Bank Swallows, as I could not discover any in their vicinity, while the insects were quite active on and about the sheltered nests of the Cliff Swallows during a greater portion of the afternoon.

A species of *Æciacus*, probably identical with the Swallow Bug, is sometimes found in poultry houses, and I have also discovered them in a stump containing a pair of nesting Tree Swallows. Barn Swallows, as is well known, are also much