

of the family, namely, the Purple Martin, *Progne subis*. It is also the darkest of them all, looking black from a distance; but in reality it is of a glossy steel blue all over, except wings and tail, which are duller. This is the one also showing least fear of man, inasmuch as it takes up its abode right in the heart of even large cities, and is not frightened by the noise produced by trains, street cars and wagons in our busiest thoroughfares. At Ottawa I have noticed colonies—for they always nest in colonies—at the Canada Atlantic Railway freight sheds, on Rideau street and in other places. Its song is a melodious chuckling, twittering. It can be easily distinguished from Blackbirds by its more graceful *gliding* flight, its shorter, little-forked tail and its notes. It takes kindly to bird houses provided by man; but they must be made large enough to afford room for several pairs. Their nesting near one's home should be encouraged by all means, since they do away with an immense number of flies and other pests.

The beginning of May brings two more Swallows, the Barn and Cliff Swallows, and these two need closer inspection than the first to separate them. The lovable Barn Swallow, *Chelidon erythrogaster*, can best be told by the *deeply forked tail*, the only Swallow having this; in flight, however, it keeps the tail closed; then the next best characteristic is that the under parts are *entirely brown*, the whole upper surface steel blue. The song is a merry twittering. The nest is built of mud under the eaves of barns, etc., sometimes in them. It also should be protected by all means, because it is a friend to the farmer on account of its great insect-destroying propensities.

The Cliff or Eave Swallow, *Petrochelidon lunifrons*, may at first sight be confounded with the preceding species on account of the general likeness in size and colour. But it has not that deeply forked tail. Furthermore, its *forehead* is *whitish*, and the upper tail coverts are light brown or yellowish. Otherwise, it is also steel blue above and brown on throat and breast; but the belly is white, not brown like in the Barn Swallow. So, when you see a Swallow flying away from you, that has a *light spot or area between the back and tail*, put it down as a Cliff Swallow. This name really holds good no longer; for it has in most places adapted itself to civilization, building its mud nest no more against the sides of cliffs, but,