

nivent rather than otherwise. The plant may not be new or undescribed; for careful people who have studied these plants in their native haunts in various places, and have cultivated them together have been obliged to distinguish several. Beyond doubt those listed and defined by Dr. Small in his excellent "Flora of the Southern States" are good. This plant of Ontario may perchance be one of those, but quite as probably it is neither; and assuredly it is not *A. canadensis* whatever it be.

Traversing this delightful succession of groves, I came at last to a dry open space, where the soil was sandy and the ground more elevated. By the presence of two or three other plants not seen before that day, I recognized the elevation as a continuation of the glacial drift I had passed an hour before. The best of these were *Ranunculus fascicularis* and *R. rhomboideus*. Both were past flowering and in good fruit; but they recalled again very vividly the gravelly knolls that in Wisconsin so long ago I used to visit early each spring to see and gather, among others before named, these two rare buttercups. I am informed by my friend Professor John Macoun that Goldie, who was the discoverer of *R. rhomboideus* and who published the species, almost a hundred years ago, was a settler in western Ontario, and botanized about Strathroy; so that here, without knowing it at the time, I was on classic ground for Canadian botany.

### A COLONY OF CLIFF SWALLOWS AND OTHERS.

BY NORMAN CRIDDLE, TREESBANK, MAN.

While collecting along the banks of the Souris River near Treesbank on July 26th of this year, I came across several colonies of Cliff Swallows with nests built on the almost perpendicular banks of the stream. The first of these were well out of reach, but eventually I discovered two on quite a low cliff situated close to some convenient mud, which probably accounted for the unusually low site chosen. The two colonies contained about 130 nests, which were some 200 yards apart, the lowest being only five feet from the more even ground beneath and but a foot from the top. These were much bunched together and gave quite a strange effect to the cliff owing to their dark, pear-shaped forms and somewhat elongated necks against the lighter back-ground. Many of the young birds had already left their nests and could be seen flying with their parents, while others were only partly fledged, and several nests still contained eggs, though in an advanced stage of incubation.

As is well known, most swallows are attacked in their homes