

climatic conditions are not to their liking they migrate to other regions.

When by reason of favorable conditions insects have multiplied and become unusually abundant, birds eat more than at ordinary times; hence the importance of their service during insect invasions.

From the standpoint of the farmer and the orchardist perhaps no birds more useful than the swallows exist.

They have been described as the light cavalry of the avian army.

Specially adapted for flight and unexcelled in aerial evolutions, they have few rivals in the art of capturing insects in mid-air. They eat nothing of value to man except a few predaceous wasps and bugs, and in return for their services in destroying vast numbers of noxious insects ask only for harborage and protection.

It is to the fact that they capture their prey on the wing that their peculiar value is due. Orioles do royal service in catching weevils, and blackbirds, wrens, flycatchers and others contribute to the good work, but when swallows are migrating they find the weevils flying in the open and wage active war against them. As many as 47 adult weevils have been found in the stomach of a single cliff swallow.

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