

the latter perhaps the most erratic of all birds, and for the last two years we have been amazed and puzzled by the dwindling of the blue gray gnat-catcher. I have seen it so common in this district that I was able to find on one morning three nests in a single wood. Last year my impression is that the combined efforts of our Club resulted in the report of one bird and this year not a single one has been noted. These birds usually nest in half open woods of oak, cherry, elm, etc., and we have usually found in the same woods the cerulean warbler and often the goldenwing but while the numbers of the two last mentioned have not fallen away seriously, the blue gray has vanished as far as our district is concerned.

It is a well known fact that practically all of the annual increases of each species dies within a year but when the blue bird was almost exterminated in the winter of 1895 it proved to be possible for that species to hold a considerable portion of the annual gain of numbers so that in a few years it nearly reached the former standard of abundance and it is to be hoped that there are enough gnat-catchers left in Ontario to spread gradually over their former habitat.

W. E. SAUNDERS, London, Ont.

THE ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW NEAR OTTAWA.

On June 28th, two tunnels used by Rough-winged Swallows as nesting sites were observed about one-half a mile apart in the sandy bank of the Rideau River above Hog's Back Lock. They were larger in diameter than those excavated by Bank Swallows, being about the same size as Kingfisher tunnels.

One of them, situated about two feet from the top of a thirty foot bank, was found to run in three feet and end in a chamber approximately eight inches in diameter. The nest, which contained six young, was made entirely of a liberal amount of dry grass. Instead of being symmetrically placed at the end of the tunnel, the nesting chamber was, without apparent reason, wholly on one side.

The Rough-winged Swallow has uniformly colored throat and breast while the Bank Swallow, which it resembles in appearance and habits, has white underparts with a brownish band across the breast. The flight of the Rough-wing is slower and less irregular than that of the Bank Swallow.

The Rough-winged Swallow should be watched for, as it has seldom been observed in eastern Canada.

CLYDE L. PATCH, Ottawa.