

SWALLOWS' NESTS.—During the past two summers I have had some rather interesting experiences with swallows, that are, perhaps, of sufficient interest to pass along to the readers of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*.

During the season of 1926 a pair of Barn Swallows nested in the barn cellar on the adjoining farm. The nest was a very shallow affair and was built on a knot protruding from a large beam, the top of the nest being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the floor of the stable, above.

During the early summer of 1927 the nest was again occupied for a short time, and one egg was laid. On visiting the nest the next day I found that it had become loosened but had not fallen down, so I put it back in place and drove two nails under it to hold it there.

The birds decided to desert the nest, however, and promptly started to build on a three-inch shelf that I had put up under the eaves of our new barn, about 100 yards distant.

The foundation of the nest was about 15 inches in length and as they proceeded they made two separate nests of it on the eastern two-thirds of the foundation. The nest was started on Sunday morning and finished the following Saturday, both birds taking part in the work.

Owing to the nature of the nest a larger amount of material was necessary than usual, all of this being carried from the barn cellar where their old nest was located. No mud was used, the nest being made entirely of manure, interwoven with straw and horsehair.

Three eggs were laid, after a lapse of eight days from the time the first egg was laid in the old nest. After the young birds were a few days old they were divided up between the two nests and after leaving the nest they returned to it to spend the night for nearly a week.

Nine days after the young birds left the nest we had a heavy rainstorm and again they returned for the night, after being absent for three nights.

This last summer (1928) the swallows did not return to their new nest under the eaves and I did not think of them returning to the old nest in the barn cellar but on looking there I found four young birds in the nest which I banded a day or two later.

About this time three pairs of Cliff Swallows came along and looked the nest over that the Barn Swallows had built the year before. I might add that this is the only Barn Swallows' nest that I have ever seen under the eaves of a building. They seemed to like the location and promptly started to build the walls of these two nests up to meet the eaves of the building, about

four inches above the top of the nests as the Barn Swallows used it. The third pair built on the foundation that extended out several inches from the west part of the nest.

Another pair of Cliff Swallows nested on a one-inch shelf under the eaves of the same building, which is a more suitable width for this species. The whole affair was rather interesting and perhaps worth passing on to others.—JOHN W. PIGGOTT.

Microsorex hoyi, A NEW MAMMAL FOR THE TORONTO REGION.—On April 20, 1929, while searching for mice at Cedarvale, Toronto, a small shrew darted under a piece of tin which lay on the ground before me. Lifting the tin I captured the specimen alive but having no equipment to keep the beast as a captive I humanely dispatched it and prepared the skin as a study specimen.

The specimen has been identified at the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology as *Microsorex hoyi hoyi*. This record appears to be the first for the species in the Toronto region. The measurements as taken from the shrew in the flesh are as follows: Length, 87 mm.; Tail, 31 mm.; Hind foot, $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The specimen, a male, is now in my collection.—C. E. HOPE, 501 Arlington Ave., Toronto.

JACK MINER'S NEW BOOK

During the last ten years Jack Miner has written many articles which have been published from coast to coast in all leading Canadian and United States newspapers, the result being that each article or statement has had a tremendous circulation, and been received so well by the public that, during the last few years, from fifty to one hundred letters would find their way daily to Jack Miner's post office box asking for reprints of these articles. So rapidly did these requests pile up, that upon taking the matter up with Ryerson Press, Toronto, they decided to place on the market all these articles in book form, calling the book "Jack Miner on Current Topics." It contains over fifty photographs taken on the bird sanctuary to illustrate the various articles. It retails at \$2.50, and can be purchased at any book store, or direct from Ryerson Press, Toronto, Ontario. Should a profit be derived from the book the money is to be used to maintain the Jack Miner bird sanctuary.



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