

DESCRIPTION OF A HYBRID BETWEEN THE BARN
AND CLIFF SWALLOWS.

BY EDGAR A. MEARNS.

IN THE 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,' Vol. III, No. 3, July, 1878, page 135, Doctor Spencer Trotter described a hybrid between *Hirundo erythrogaster* Boddaert and *Petrochelidon lunifrons* (Say). The specimen was taken at Linwood, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, May 22, 1878, by C. D. Wood. "Unfortunately he [Wood] did not carefully determine its sex by dissection, though he believed it to have been a male."

On June 14, 1893, at Fort Hancock, El Paso County, Texas, I found a pair of swallows which were mated, and had almost completed a nest attached to a rafter of an old building, in a situation too difficult for me to reach. As I recall it, the nest was similar to that of the Barn Swallow, having the entrance at the top. Both birds were shot. The male (No. 134,420, U. S. National Museum) was a typical Barn Swallow; but the female (No. 134,421, U. S. National Museum), which was about to lay eggs, was a hybrid between *Hirundo erythrogaster* and *Petrochelidon lunifrons*.¹ It may be described as follows: Length, 149 mm.; alar expanse, 296; wing, 107; tail, 59; culmen (chord), 8; tarsus, 12; middle toe with claw, 15.8.² The characters are, in general, intermediate between those of the two genera — *Hirundo* and *Petrochelidon* — and species. As regards the form of the bill and the form and

¹ The resident Cliff Swallow of the Rio Grande Valley is *Petrochelidon lunifrons*, not *P. melanogaster*, which latter occurs on the Mexican boundary line to the westward, from the San Luis Mountains to Nogales (monuments 65 to 122 of the latest survey). See Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XIV, September 25, 1901, p. 177.

² Its mate, a typical male of *Hirundo erythrogaster*, measures: Length, 169; alar expanse, 308; wing, 114; tail, 82; culmen, 6.9; tarsus, 11; middle toe with claw, 16.2.

An adult female of *Petrochelidon lunifrons* (No. 163,687, U. S. National Museum), taken at Fort Clark, Kinney County, Texas, April 28, 1898, measures: Length, 145; alar expanse, 300; wing, 106; tail, 53; culmen, 7.7; tarsus, 14.5; middle toe with claw, 16.

position of the nostrils this is precisely the case. The wing is but slightly longer than that of the Cliff Swallow. The tail is forked, and of intermediate length. The feet are intermediate, but most resemble those of the Cliff Swallow. The colors of the iris, bill, and feet, were noted at the time of capture as indistinguishable from those of its mate — a Barn Swallow. In coloration, the wings and tail are intermediate between those of the two species, which are brown in the Cliff Swallow and blue in the Barn Swallow. The forehead is ferruginous, as in the Barn Swallow; but the sides of the head and neck, behind the eye, where blue in the Barn Swallow and ferruginous in the Cliff Swallow, are an intimate mixture of the two. On the back, the buffy-white edging of the feathers is apparent, but not so plainly indicated as in the Cliff Swallow (the whole upper surface, except the ferruginous frontal band, is uniform steel-blue in the Barn Swallow). The rump and upper tail-coverts differ from those of either species, although the pattern is that of the Cliff Swallow; the color instead of tawny-ochraceous is cream-buff, lightly and irregularly spotted with blue, the longest coverts being purplish brown. The under parts most closely resemble those of the Barn Swallow; chin and throat hazel, darker than the Barn Swallow and lighter than the Cliff Swallow, from which latter it differs in having the hazel color more extended posteriorly, and in lacking the black pectoral spot. The whole underparts, including the under tail-coverts, are washed with ferruginous, but less strongly so than in the Barn Swallow. The under wing-coverts are intermediate. Two outer rectrices are spotted with grayish white on the inner webs, these being immaculate in the Cliff Swallow, spotted in the Barn Swallow.

GENERAL NOTES.

Franklin's Gull in the Virginia Mountains. — I desire to place upon record the capture by myself of a stray specimen of Franklin's Rosy Gull (*Larus franklinii*) at Blacksburg, Montgomery Co., Virginia (No. 757, coll. E. A. S.). This is a first record for the State; and I have as yet seen no other record for the Eastern States. On the 24th of October, 1898, I was



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