

Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science

Volume 36 | Annual Issue

Article 118

1929

Cliff Swallow Colonies in Iowa

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Recommended Citation

Kubichek, W. F. (1929) "Cliff Swallow Colonies in Iowa," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 36(1), 381-381.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol36/iss1/118>

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CLIFF SWALLOW COLONIES IN IOWA

W. F. KUBICHEK

Available literature on the Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*) indicates that at present this species is not as abundant as it was formerly and that no very large colonies have recently been reported from Iowa. A colony worth reporting is located five miles northwest of Oxford, Johnson Co., Iowa. A large barn with its wide eaves has served as a supporting structure for their mud nests for many years. The fact that most of the nests were on the east side of the barn was due, perhaps, to the proximity of a creek in the barnyard. On this side the writer counted 986 nests, while the number on the other side was only thirty-one. Altogether there was a total of 1,017 nests, the largest colony extant in Iowa or the middle west. In a few places they extended nine nests down on the east side of the barn and in almost every case each was plastered to several others.

Every fall they are broken down by the farmer, not because he dislikes the birds — for he affords them every protection — but to keep the pestiferous English sparrow from taking possession.

Another breeding colony, the previous largest recent nesting site, is described by Oscar P. Allert (Wilson Bulletin, vol. XL, p. 197) near McGregor, Iowa which numbers twenty-seven nests. Many smaller colonies in various parts of the state have been reported by several other observers.

COE COLLEGE,
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.

THE EUROPEAN STARLING IN IOWA

W. F. KUBICHEK

The first record of introduction of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) into the United States was at Cincinnati, Ohio in 1872. However, the attempt to bring this old world bird into the country at this time was unsuccessful. Unable to adapt themselves to the new surroundings they soon all died, and it was not