

A NOTE ON A PECULIAR NESTING SITE OF THE CHIMNEY SWIFT.

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As an illustration of the ability of birds to adapt themselves to new conditions, the chimney swift is a striking example. Driven from the hollow tree as a nesting site by the woodman's axe and fires, the swift adapted itself to the broad open chimneys of the settlers' cabins, and later to the narrow flues of a later day. The projecting spines of the tail feathers fortunately answered the same purpose in a soot-lined chimney that they had done in the soft decayed wood of a hollow tree.

During the past summer the writer's attention was called to a still greater change in the nesting site of a pair of swifts. Near the residence of Mr. James Storie, one and one-half miles north of Moorefield, Switzerland County, a pair of swifts, being excluded from the chimneys by wire netting, have nested for two seasons in an old-fashioned dug well walled with stone.

The well is some twenty feet deep and three feet in diameter, and has over it a square curb about three feet high, one-half of which was permanently left open. The nests were built in each case at a distance of some seven or eight feet below the level of the ground, and at approximately the same distance above the water. The young were matured and brought forth in safety both seasons.

