

alighting. After unsuccessfully spending an hour and a half at this nest, I transferred to another in a hollow spout about 15 feet from the ground. The birds became quite excited, and on several occasions alighted on the spout while I was focussing. The accompanying photograph was taken without moving away from the camera. Portion of a second bird may be seen behind the main subject. Shortly afterwards a photograph was taken of three birds together on the branch, which picture, however, was spoilt by being a little out of focus. When the excitement subsided the birds would not approach until I moved back a little. They afterwards came to the nest quite readily, both birds sometimes going in together with nesting materials. One photograph was secured of a bird bringing a large leaf to the nest. They would rarely alight in the desired position, and the majority of photographs taken were not satisfactory.

The Tree-Swallow viewed at close quarters is a very elegant and pretty little creature. The underparts are pale buff to whitish, with the throat faintly streaked with brown. The wings and tail are dark brown, and the rump pale buff faintly streaked with brown. The back and head are glossy blue-black and the forehead light tan brown. The light-coloured crown and side of the head of the bird in the photograph are due to the light reflected from the glossy plumage. In flight it may easily be confused with the Fairy Martin (*Hylochelidon ariel*), which it resembles in most particulars. The chief points in which they differ are the smaller size and the rufous head of the Fairy Martin.

---

**A Queer Nesting Site.**—One week-end in October, 1931, my husband told me of a bird's nest—"a most untidy mixture of mud and long straws"—that he had found in the opening of the canvas sail cover that stretched over the boom of the "Navahoe." Not realising at first that the structure was a bird's nest, he had roughly pulled it down, putting to flight a small bird, that "looked like a Swallow but was not one," sitting on four eggs in the nest. Damaged beyond mending, the nest was thrown overboard. A week or two passed, and my husband informed me that the birds had built again in the same place, so I went across to the moorings to have a look, and found a Tree Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans*) brooding one cold egg in a partly dislodged mass of mud and long straws that was half in, half out of the sail cover. On the deck below the boom three eggs lay smashed. A fierce storm on the preceding day had evidently destroyed the birds' second nesting effort. They have not built again afloat.—(MRS.) L. M. MAYO, R.A.O.U., South Brisbane, Queensland.