is stated to be the distant land of the Amoor. The individuals frequenting the latter country probably spend the winter in Southern China; while those found further west, in Russia for instance, resort to Asia Minor and Arabia; and those of Central Europe pass the Mediterranean, by way of Malta and the neighbouring islands, to Algeria. North America has a Swallow nearly allied to our own. This bird, like ours, is merely a summer visitant, resorting to the United States at that season, and retiring to Mexico and Central America at the opposite. Crossing the equator to South Africa on the one hand, and Australia on the other, we find migratory Swallows in both those countries, performing precisely the same offices, having similar natures, and whose movements, like those of the northern species, are regulated by the sun, but of course performed, owing to their geographical position, at the opposite season of the year.

In the antipodes, as with us, the Swallow is the harbinger of spring, and the cheerful companion of those who have adopted that part of the world as a home; for, like the English bird, it builds a similar nest in chimneys, barns, and outhouses, and lays eggs alike in character and markings: yet no naturalist will for a moment consider the *Hirundo neoxena* to be identical with the *H. rustica*.

Soon after its arrival in England, the Swallow commences the task of reproduction; the places chosen for the nest are exceedingly varied: the inner side of a smoky chimney, the shaft of a mine, the rafters beneath a bridge, barn, or boat-house are commonly selected; and many others might have been mentioned, were it necessary so to do. The nest is most ingeniously built of wet mud, with layers of straw-like grasses to secure the mass together, precisely as the hair prevents the plasterer's work from falling to pieces; within this half cup of a nest, which is placed against the wall or the rafter, is a lining of fine grasses and feathers. The following description of the nest of this species is by my son Franklin.

"When fishing at Denham, on the 25th of May, 1861, I observed several fine examples of the nests and eggs of this bird under the bridge. The exterior of these nests was, as usual, composed of mud mixed up with short pieces of hay or dried grass, with a few downy feathers of the Swan lining the interior. Some of the nests had evidently been constructed the previous year, and increased by the addition of an inch or two of fresh mud. They contained eggs in various degrees of forwardness, from those newly laid to those with the fully developed young in them. The eggs differed considerably in shape and marking, one set, before they were blown, being of a delicate pink, covered all over with minute spots of light reddish brown; the others, on the contrary, were broader and shorter in form, and were of the same delicate ground-colour, but with a smaller number of spots, and those of a brown tint, running into large blotches at the broader end."

The young Swallows remain blind for several days; still they grow fast, and rapidly fill the nest, their wide bills and bright-yellow fleshy gapes showing very conspicuously; and about the middle of June they leave the nest, and perch on some neighbouring bare branch on the sunny side of a tree: here they are fed by their parents, who bring them insects every minute, from morn till night. There these nestlings preen their feathers, exercise their wings by taking short flights round the branches of the tree, or sally forth to meet their parents and receive the food in the air, as portrayed on the accompanying Plate. The young, after this time, begin to hawk flies for themselves; and the summer being still young, the old birds often reconstruct the nest and rear a second brood. I find, by my note-book, that some Swallows were sitting on their eggs under the little romantic bridge at Formosa, near Cookham, in Berkshire, as late as the 8th of August. These late broods, however, I imagine, are frequently overtaken by our chilly autumn, and suffer severely from cold; they are, however, only the remnant of our summer Swallows. These are the birds that linger to a later period in the autumn, some even to October and November: perchance they have not sufficient strength to perform the journey across the seas; they therefore still remain. It is these birds which seek shelter in caves, crevices of rocks, and similar places; here the increased cold of night benumbs their muscles, paralyzes their systems, and renders them torpid; still their hearts beat, though but slowly; ultimately they get weaker and weaker, and, as a natural consequence, die. Under such circumstances their bodies are occasionally found; and hence, perhaps, has arisen the fable of the supposed hybernation of this bird.

The sexes are precisely alike in colour; but they differ in size, the female being somewhat smaller, and having the outer tail-feathers shorter, than her mate.

Forehead and throat deep orange-brown; sides of the neck, back, wings, and band across the breast deep bluish black; abdomen and vent reddish white, tinged with brown; tail-feathers black, all but the two middle ones, with a large white spot on the inner web; bill and irides black; legs and feet purplish brown.

The young gradually assume the colouring of the adult, from the time they leave the nest until they are twelve months old.

The figures represent an adult and a young bird, of the natural size.