

INTRODUCTION.

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bracketing its cup-shaped nest in our chimneys and outhouses, and rearing its progeny upon the insects it captures in the neighbourhood, departs again in autumn to more southern climes, carrying with it our god-speed for its welfare until it returns to receive our renewed greeting.

Genus CHELIDON.

Other species besides the clothed-tarsed one frequenting our island are known; they are mostly from India, China, and Japan.

51. CHELIDON URBICA Vol. II. Pl. VI.
HOUSE-MARTIN.

This pretty fairy-like bird arrives about the middle of April, constructs a semiglobular nest of mud under the eaves of our dwellings, and, after rearing its progeny, departs again in the autumn to the warmer country of Africa—where the sun still vivifies an abundance of insect life, and thus furnishes a plentiful supply of food to these insectivorous birds.

Genus COTYLE.

A very distinct little group are the Sand-Martins, whose habits are peculiar and very different from those of the Swallow or the House-Martin. They inhabit the Old and the New World.

52. COTYLE RIPARIA Vol. II. Pl. VII.
SAND-MARTIN.

Arrives early in spring, assembles in flocks, breeds in colonies, makes a slight nest in a hole in a sandbank, and, after rearing its young, departs south on the first chilly days of August or September.

53. COTYLE RIPARIA Vol. II. Pl. VIII.
SAND-MARTIN (young)

as seen on the bank of the Thames, in the month of August, prior to departure south.

Genus PROGNE.

54. PROGNE PURPUREA.

Purple Martin.

A strictly American form, of which four or five examples are said to have been killed in our islands—one near Dublin, one in Yorkshire, and two at Kingsbury in Middlesex.