

customed to marching in mud and water, we enjoyed the tramp, and picked up, besides Swallows, many interesting objects, which we saw in numbers every day that we stayed on the island. On reaching the cave, we found that it was one which was formerly supposed to be the residence of one of the native gods, "Moso." Our Samoan companions pointed out the place, but declined entering, and we found that a wall had been built across the entrance, leaving but a narrow aperture through which the passage was given into utter darkness; but being prepared with matches, candles, and a lantern, we soon were on our way through a regularly formed volcanic tunnel, or passage, which was once an outlet by which lava in its molten state found its way from the mountains to the sea.

A sound like the rattling of small hard pebbles was heard, and soon traced to numerous Swallows, which had been disturbed by our lights; many others were discovered sitting quietly on their nests, placed on slight ridges of the lava.

The nests were composed of moss, held together with glue incorporated with the moss in large quantities; like the walls of the cave, they were dripping with moisture; each contained but *one* egg, or young bird, and incubation did not appear to be confined to any particular season. Some were just building, while the young of others had quitted the nest, and were just beginning to fly. Old nests were repaired with new moss, which made it appear that they used the same more than once. Some of the old birds were so unsuspecting that they allowed us to lift them off their egg with our hands, and they immediately returned when we were satisfied that they had but one under them.

The nests are nearly round, three inches in diameter, and about one inch and a half high. The eggs are pure white, one end nearly as small as the other; three-quarters of an inch long, and half an inch in diameter.

Notwithstanding these Swallows are known to fly through long subterranean passages in total darkness, they may daily be seen abroad, even in clear sunlight, collecting food for themselves and their young; so that it is probable there will be found on careful examination, some anatomical structure which enables them to alter the form of their eyes, and see both in the dark and in the light. Such minute examinations require both time and patience, which we then had not in our control.

The two sexes are alike in plumage, which the young also wear