

cover—an invariable accompaniment of stubble fields and a habitue of grain-stacks. Although bred to a terrestrial life they are quite at home in the branches of a willow or alder sapling. Indeed, from the frequency with which I have met them in such situations in the evening and at early morning, I have even suspected that they sometimes roost so.

#### SUBORDER CYPSELL. SWIFTS.

BLACK SWIFTS, *Cypseloides niger*.—These erratic and almost uncanny creatures appeared at Chelan several times during the summer of 1895. The birds would come in a straggling flock along about 7 o'clock in the morning, hawking at insects as they went, but all, in general, coming from up the lake and moving eastward. I saw them only once this year, on June 9th. On this occasion I saw a company of a score hunting leisurely, at high noon, over the Okanogan river. In the evening of the same day a hundred or so gathered, after the manner of Chimney Swifts, to gyrate in social fashion, at a point on the Columbia river twenty miles south from the first ones observed.

VAUX'S SWIFT, *Chaetura vauuxii*.—The only point in the country where these birds were noted was at the head of Lake Chelan, where they regularly nested and roosted in the hollow trunks of dead balm trees.

□ WHITE-THROATED SWIFT, *Aeronautes melanoleucus*.—A single specimen seen while exploring the cliffs of the Columbia river gorge seems referable to this species. Probably a wanderer from some detached colony recently emigrated to this northern limit of the semi-arid region.—WILLIAM L. DAWSON, *Oberlin, O.*

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#### GENERAL NOTES.

A FOSTER-BROTHER'S KINDNESS.—Sometime during the past summer a friend of mine at Chelan, Wash., secured a fledgling Bullock's Oriole, by rescuing it from the water where it had evidently just fallen from the nest. When taken home it proved a ready pet and was given the freedom of the place. Some two weeks later my friend obtained another nestling oriole from another brood and put it in a cage with the older bird. The newcomer had not yet learned to feed himself but only opened his mouth and called with childish insistence. Judge of the master's delight, and mine as a witness, when the older bird, himself but a fledgling, began to feed the orphan with all the tender solictude of a parent. It was irresistably cunning and heartsome too, for the bird to select with