

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.*

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

thoughtful brotherly kindness, a morsel of food and hop over toward the clamoring stranger and drop it in his mouth—after this to stand back and say : “There baby, how did you like that ?” This trait was not shown by a chance exhibition but became a regular habit and was still followed when the older bird had attained to fly-catching. It upset all ones notions about instinct and made one think of a Golden Rule for birds.—W. L. DAWSON, *Oberlin, O.*

NOTES FROM OBERLIN, OHIO.—The summer which has just gone has been a profitable one from an ornithological standpoint. Many things of special interest have been noticed, some of which may go into a special bulletin.

FLIGHTS OF BIRDS.—NIGHTHAWK.—From August 22 until September 16, Nighthawks passed over Oberlin in a southerly direction in companies of six to ten, every evening about an hour before sunset. They flew low over the fields and meadows, but rose to several hundred feet when passing over the village. There was an interval of about four minutes between the appearance of each of the several companies. The largest number of birds counted on any one evening was 150. There were usually about 100. In no case was the flight direct, but the birds were feeding as they traveled.

CROW.—Throughout the summer crows were seen in the usual numbers singly, in pairs or small companies during the day. On September 7, at 5 o'clock in the evening, 398 were seen, flying in a north-westerly direction. They were in two companies, with an interval of eight minutes between the two. Each company was first noticed in a field of corn, feeding on the green kernels. The flight took the form of a line of march fully two miles long and an average of four abreast, with skirmishers far out on each side. These skirmishers were the only individuals to stop as long as the birds were in sight. The line of march presented a ragged appearance, and sometimes broken, when the birds in front of the break in the line would be gathered into a small company. I have no doubt that the birds were on their way to a roost for the night. On the succeeding night about the same number were seen going in the same direction, but all in one company. On several different occasions and at as many different points numbers of crows were seen flying in a westerly direction. By tracing these several lines of flight it is found that they converge at a point about eight miles west of Oberlin, on a wooded river bottom. It has been impossible to visit the spot to determine if the surmise that the birds roost there is correct.

CHIMNEY SWIFT.—The Swifts have a rendezvous in a large chimney of