

The voice of the chimney swift is not as musical as the swallows', and their twittering song, though cheerful, displays little variation, is nothing more indeed than rapidly repeated *tsips*. The species is generally distributed in summer throughout this eastern country north to the fiftieth parallel, but they leave us in September for their winter resorts in the tropics.

NIGHT HAWK.

This is one of those unfortunate birds that have been misnamed by the popular voice, because the average man is a superficial observer and bases his decisions upon too slight evidence. The night hawk is in no way a bird of the night. It is as strictly diurnal as the robin, for example ; indeed of the two I think the robin makes quite as much use of the sunless hours, for while the so-called hawk may extend his period of activity further into the evening, the robin is on the wing earlier in the morning.

The night hawk preys upon small winged insects, and as these remain under cover during mid-day the birds are inclined to follow the example, though it is not an uncommon sight to see night hawks in the air amid the glare of the brightest noontime. Yet they do not fly in the sunlight as frequently as do their fellow fly-hunters—the swallows. Both species take to their wings at times out of pure sport—for the exhilaration of flying—but the swallows have the larger supply of nervous energy and fly with less exhaustion, so indulge in sportive flight with greater frequency than do the night hawks. When the sun declines westward and the winged mites come out for an airing, then the night hawks are most active ; but when the twilight deepens and the shadows of night fall upon the land the night hawks fold their wings and take their rest like other decent folk.

And so it turns out after all that our night hawk is no lover of the dark hours like those prowling ruffians, the owls, or the ghowlish bats or those cadaverous students—the “grinds”—and other questionable characters who work at night and sleep in the day, but is a well behaved, sensible bird, living up to the good