"Far over purple seas,
They wait in sunny ease
The balmy southern breeze
To waft them to their northern homes once more."

Ornithologists, however, though able to point out with a fair degree of certainty the winter resort of each of the American swallows, as well as of most of the other birds on the Check-list, have nothing to tell us of the wherabouts of the chimney swift at this season. He has never been reported from Central or South America, and from the beginning of November, when he is last observed at the southernmost stations of the United States until his reappearance there about the middle of March, his written history is a blank. To account for this mysterious disappearance the old theory of hibernation has been partially revived by some ornithologists.

In the days when the swallows were supposed to spend half the year buried in the mud at the bottoms of lakes and ponds, the chimney swifts were assigned winter quarters somewhat more congenial in the hollow tree from which they used to be seen issuing in such vast flocks on the sunny mornings in spring. Alexander Wilson writing in 1810-13 found it necessary vigorously to combat these ideas. But our knowledge has made but little progress in this direction in the meantime, and Dr. Coues in his "Birds of the Colorado Valley," discusses the question of possible hibernation seriously and at some length. The trouble is that nearly all the evidence on either side is negative; and to this shadowy array of facts we in Ottawa can add our little quota—that the swifts cestainly do not spend the winter in the tower which is their favourite home in spring and autumn. This has been proved by inspection for two successive winters.

Before saying farewell to this little bird let us again place him for a moment side by side with his rival and imitator, the swallow. Even in the points of superficial resemblance, which at the beginning of this paper we took such care to overlook, there is, I believe a lesson for the student of natural history; for they show how creatures of very different origin and structure may take on a great degree of external similarity through living upon similar food and under similar outward conditions. The swifts are probably the older family in their present form, and as we