

occasions the parent, probably the attending male, puffs himself up as it were into a ball of feathers; at the same time striking his wings on the ground and opening his capacious mouth to its full extent, he stares wildly and utters a blowing hiss like that of the Barn Owl when surprised in his hole. On observing this grotesque manœuvre, and this appearance so unlike that of a volatile bird, we are struck with the propriety of the metaphorical French name of *Crapaud volans*, or Flying Toad, which this bird indeed much resembles while thus shapelessly tumbling before the astonished spectator. The same feint is also made when he is wounded, on being approached. Like some of the other species, instinctively vigilant for the safety of their misshapen and tender brood, these birds also probably convey them or the eggs from the scrutiny of the meddling observer. In our climate they have no more than a single brood.

Sometimes the Nighthawk, before his departure, is seen to visit the towns and cities, sailing in circles and uttering his squeak as he flies high and securely over the busy streets, occasionally sweeping down, as usual, with his whirring notes; and at times he may be observed, even on the tops of chimneys, uttering his harsh call. In gloomy weather these birds are abroad nearly the whole day, but are most commonly in motion an hour or two before dusk. Sometimes indeed they are seen out in the brightest and hottest weather, and occasionally, while basking in the sun, find means to give chase to the *Cicindeli*, *Carabi*, and other entirely diurnal insects, as well as grasshoppers, with which they often gorge themselves in a surprising manner; but they probably seldom feed more than an hour or two in the course of the day. On Wappatoo Island, at the estuary of the Wahlamet, they were till the 10th of September numerous and familiar, alighting often close to the dwellings, in quest probably of crawling insects which come out in the dark.

About the middle of August they begin their migrations towards the south, on which occasion they may be seen in the evening moving in scattered flocks consisting of several hun-