



NIGHTHAWK.

GOATSUCKER. BULL BAT.

CHORDEILES VIRGINIANUS.

CHAR. Gape wide ; bill extremely small ; no rictal bristles. Above, dull black mottled with brown and gray ; wings brown, a patch of white on five outer primaries ; tail dusky, with bars of gray and a patch of white near the extremity ; lower parts reddish white with bars of brown ; throat with patch of white. Length about $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Nest. Usually in open woods ; the eggs generally laid upon a rock or on the turf, — sometimes they are laid on a gravel roof in a city.

Eggs. 2 ; dull white or buff, thickly mottled with brown, slate, and lilac: 1.25×0.85 .

Towards the close of April the Nighthawks arrive in the Middle States, and early in May they are first seen near the sea-coast of Massachusetts, which at all times appears to be a favorite resort. In the interior of the continent they penetrate as far as the sources of the Mississippi, the Rocky Mountains, and the Territory of Oregon ; they are likewise observed around the dreary coasts of Hudson Bay and the remotest Arctic islands, breeding in the whole intermediate region to the more temperate and elevated parts of Georgia. They are now commonly seen towards evening, in pairs, sailing round in sweeping circles high in the air, occasionally descending lower