

old-fashioned sentiment that night is the time for rest. Exceptions there are to most good rules, and desirous as I am of clearing a maligned bird from charges of bad habits, candor compels me to admit that I have heard the cry of this bird from mid-air at mid-night. But the moon was full, the sky was clear, and the air balmy; the night was much too fine to waste it all in slumber. I could not blame the bird; I envied him.

The semi-nocturnal or crepuscular habit is common to a large number of American birds. They are not about during the middle of the day, as is the habit with the majority of the European species. This is one of the reasons why English people think that there are but few birds in Canada; for English birds are always active, always to be seen and heard. Driving through the country districts of Canada you hear no continuous chorus of bird voices such as greets the ear from the fields and hedgerows of merry England. "Have we not fewer song-birds than are found in England?" is frequently asked. Quite the contrary, must be replied. Canada can fairly boast of more species of song-birds and of more beautiful bird songs than can be heard in England. But our grandest carillon, the chief chorus of our sylvan voices is heard in the morning only—the very early morning—at dawn, though a few of our songsters reserve their sweetest strains for that quiet hour when daylight dies.

The night hawk is much inclined to fly high in the air, so high at times as to be almost out of sight, yet we can follow the bird's flight by the harsh grating note it continually utters, a note which has the power of penetrating a remarkable distance through the air. The effect, is sometimes ventriloquial, the sound appearing near at hand when the bird is far away in the sky. The bird mounts upward by spiral evolutions, and at intervals closes its wings and plunges head first toward the earth. After descending some sixty feet or more it wheels upward, and the ascent to the upper air is again made. Just as the bird makes this aerial curve or wheel, a hollow booming sound is heard—a phenomenon that has formed the topic for much speculation. How the sound is made, by the mouth or the wings or in some other way, has not yet been determined.

On the ground, at a little distance, the night hawk looks like a bit of brownish granite, though in the hand the color which predominates