

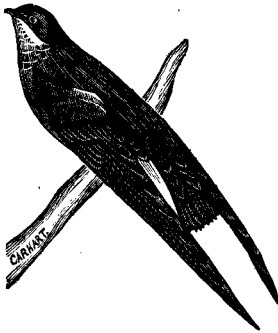
THE CHIMNEY SWIFT.

Chaetura Pelagica.

BY H. W. DAVIS, NORTH GRANVILLE, N. Y.

This dusky little summer visitor does not receive half the attention and appreciation that it justly deserves.

Who, on a summer's afternoon, has not sat and watched it in its irregular and rapid flight as it flitted hither and thither? Now circling about some old chimney, and for a moment hovering over its top as though about to descend, and just as you look for it to vanish into the darkness of the brick walls, like a fickle creature, off it will dart, uttering its sharp, twittering cry as though defying you, and chuckling to itself over your disappointment; then back again it will come, only to go through the same evolutions, and again disappoint you, if you are watching to see it make the descent.



CHIMNEY SWIFT.

Its rapidly moving wings and long sweeping symmetrical curves, as it sails about, can but commend it to your admiration.

This little bird, peculiar to America, is found throughout the United States, west to the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. It is 5.25 inches long; wing 5.10; tail 2.15.

In examining it closely, one finds many points that are very interesting. The nostrils have a membrane partially covering them behind, leaving a small tubular opening. The tongue is sharp and divided. The small, slim feet are very muscular and the claws exceedingly sharp. The tail is even and the shafts of the tail feathers are elongated into sharp and very elastic points.

It is of a dark sooty-brown above; somewhat lighter on the rump. The feathers on the throat are a beautiful greenish-white. A light colored line extends from the bill over the eyes. The small, glistening, black eyes are surrounded by a bare, black skin, which (on close inspection) gives to the head a rather grotesque appearance.

The Chimney Swift appears in this section, from the Tropical re-

gion, about the latter part of April. It builds its nest in chimneys and appears to prefer the old-fashioned square chimney ; ones that are not in use. It rarely builds in chimneys that are in use if others can be found, which would leave us to infer that it was not particularly partial to smoke. In the unsettled sections of country, it builds in the trunks of hollow trees and in caverns.

The nest is composed of small twigs which it breaks off with its feet and cements together. The nest is stuck firmly to the side of the chimney or hollow tree, with the same glutenous substance that is used in cementing the twigs.

The eggs, usually four in number, are dusky-white and unspotted. Not unfrequently, small or "luck eggs" are found in the nests, which is the case with two sets that I have collected. Two broods are usually reared in a season. It feeds on insects and the larvæ of small beetles, the indigestible portions of the food being disgorged.

THE BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.

Mniotilta varia.

BY WM. L. KELLS, LISTOWEL, ONT., CANADA.

This species, in some of its food-seeking habits, resembles the Brown Creeper, for which reason it has, until lately, been denominated the Black and White Creeper. It also frequents much the same situations, though it does not penetrate so deep into the forest ; but is often, especially in spring-time, observed on the outskirts of the woods and in new fallows, where the other species of Creeper is never heard or seen. Its movements, while in quest of its insect food on the trunks of trees, are generally in a circular manner, and its mode of procedure, rather a series of hops, than creeping jerks. It will also run out along the branches and cling to a limb with its feet, sus-