

A "BACHELOR" GREAT BLUE HERON, *Ardea herodias*.—July 3, 1898, an adult was secured from the vicinity of a mill dam on the Darby creek, a mile and a half south of Berwyn, and brought to me to be mounted. It was an unusually large specimen, lacking but an inch of six feet in extent. Its diet must have been rather light for so immense a bird, as its stomach contained several dragon flies, and a few fragments of a crawfish and flesh of a frog. I failed to find any evidence of testes or ovaries and think it probable that it was sterile—doubtless a by no means rare condition for unmated, solitary and wandering birds and mammals. I was informed that this heron had been seen about for several days previous.

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CHIMNEY SWIFT ROOST.—Perhaps they had used our east chimney as a sleeping place before this fall, but if so, I failed to observe it. Annually a brood of young have issued from this and another chimney for at least fifteen years except the season of 1895, when none appeared to occupy the flues. It is the ordinary type of brick chimney for a dwelling, the single flue or chamber being eight by fourteen inches and running from foundations to above the roof, a distance of about thirty-five feet, and is seldom used. On the evening of August 25th, I counted nineteen birds entering, which number made neither loss nor gain until the 31st, when thirty-one entered. The next evening—September 1—a further increase to thirty-seven which was the highest until the 7th and 8th—when the high water mark was reached—fifty-eight being counted. On the 7th, after a short rain storm at 6:50 P. M., the mercury stood at 68° F.—a fall of almost 20°—the sky overcast with lead-colored clouds and a brisk wind blowing. The Swifts were collecting at this time and circled about in a bewildering manner, now and then a few would rest for but a moment or so on the top branches of a tall locust, but in about ten minutes they began to drop in the chimney in singles, pairs or bunches of threes, until 6:48, when the last had disappeared. I noticed that if a bird followed too closely after a small number, it flew out and around again until room could be made for it or the previous arrivals could settle, while others would make a feint of entering for perhaps the same reason. The cool weather continued during the next day and night when the same number appeared, falling off to eighteen on the following evening, and none roosting there after the 17th, although a few were seen in the neighborhood up to the fifth of October.

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