

FOURTH PLACE-JUNIOR ESSAY

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Age 9

CHIMNEY SWIFT BIRDS APPEAR TO BE MY NEIGHBORS

My family has an outdoor patio that has a free-standing chimney. Inside the chimney, there is a group of chimney swift birds. They have been living there for about three months. After about one month, they had babies.

I always hear the chimney swift birds chirping when I go outside on the patio. Sometimes I see one of the parents go out and hunt for food. When one of the parents comes back with the food, I think the babies fight to get the food. There are about 3 to 5 babies in that nest, so I think it would be hard to raise them because when it is feeding time the mom or dad has to take 3 to 4 trips. They have to teach the little ones how to fly and how to survive. Because of all these reasons I see it would be very hard to raise and take care of a bird.

I took my flashlight and looked up the chimney. I saw the family of birds. I think the birds were hungry because they were chirping so loud that I have to cover my ears. Their neck was stuck to the side of the chimney. I saw one of the parents fly out of the chimney.

Before I saw the parents come out to hunt for food, I have always wondered what they hunted for, but I know now. I did some research in a bird book. they eat an insect diet. Chimney swift birds fly high and quick in the sky when hunting for food.

I love to watch the chimney swift birds because they swoop when flying. I think they are wonderful creatures. I an glad they are my neighbors outside on my patio. I do hope that when my dad lights our fireplace, they will stick around in the wintertime!