

# Birding

*by* Gary Hardaway

Chimney swifts and sparrows,  
pigeons, doves, alarming grackles  
and murders of crows--  
but hardly ever cardinals and jays,  
or robins, red and gray.  
Even mockingbirds are scarce;  
the rat-a-tat tap of woodpeckers  
startles in its rarity,  
and I haven't seen  
a scissortail in twenty years.

