

they swallow. This is certainly not the case with *Cucumaria frondosa*. For one thing there is little or no mud in the habitats in which they live, and no individuals of this species occur on the mud-flats or in any other very muddy situations. If an individual is watched for any length of time it will be seen that the tentacles are expanded and withdrawn at irregular intervals, or else that one tentacle after another is withdrawn into the mouth and then expanded again. The significance of these actions I discovered only after very close observation. The surface of the branches of the tentacles is of a glutinous nature, and planctonic animals, especially Copepods, adhere to the tentacles when they strike them. When the tentacles are withdrawn into the mouth the prey is removed. Thus this species is not a mud-feeder but a plancton-feeder.

Respiration in *Cucumaria frondosa* is somewhat irregular, but many specimens under observation ejected the water from the anal aperture once every two minutes with fair regularity.

The change of form which this species undergoes is remarkable, as it assumes practically every shape from almost spherical to very slender and elongated, or it may be constricted in the middle and take the form of an hour-glass.—A. BROOKER KLUGH.

NOTE ON A RED SQUIRREL.—Late last fall, at my summer place near Black Rapids on the Rideau, I came across a fine specimen of red squirrel with a white-tipped tail. Later on we saw him frequently and had every chance to inspect him, as he was quite friendly.—MARK G. McELHINNEY.

SNOW BUNTING AND LAPLAND LONGSPUR IN TREES.—In an early number of *Bird-Lore* there appeared a photograph of Snow Buntings perched in a tree. The writer has also observed this apparently unusual phenomenon at least once in southern latitudes.

On March 11 of this year some seven Lapland Longspurs were observed in a field about five miles east of London, and, after flying about for several minutes in an erratic manner, one individual alighted about twenty feet up in an elm.

This habit does not seem to be a pronounced one for this group in settled regions, though the writer has several times observed Snow Buntings hanging to spruces in latitude 56°N. at the same season.—E. W. CALVERT.

SNOW BUNTINGS AND PIPITS PERCHED IN TREES.—On April 15, 1920, about 6.30 a.m., I saw two Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) perched in tree tops near Quebec, P.Q. Two fir

trees, about thirty feet high, one dead, the other one partly dead, stood about a rod apart on a fence-line between two fields. One Snow Bunting was in the top of each tree, and I examined them there at my leisure. The morning was fine and moderately cool, with a light westerly breeze.

On May 9, 1920, I observed seven Pipits (*Anthus rubescens*) near Quebec, P.Q., and recorded in my notes, "Pipits perched freely in a tree. I heard them sing, both when on the ground and when in the tree."—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

MAGPIES AND STOCK.—That the late reports of Magpies injuring stock do not indicate a newly developed habit of the species is evident from the following extract from *The Winning of the West*, Theodore Roosevelt, New Library Edition, Putnam & Sons, Vol. III, part 2, p. 187, where in the description of the hardships experienced by Zebulon Pike in the winter of 1806-07 in the vicinity of the great peak that was later named after him the following appears:

"The horses suffered most; the extreme toil and scanty pasturage weakened them so that some died from exhaustion; others fell over precipices; and the magpies proved evil foes, picking the sore backs of the wincing saddle-galled beasts."—P. A. TAVERNER.

NOTE ON PUGNACITY OF TREE SWALLOWS.—In the spring of 1919 two Tree Swallows persistently fought for possession of a bird-house. While I was digging in my garden one Saturday afternoon the two birds came tumbling to earth, almost striking the spade. So tenaciously were they locked together that both were picked up in the hand. This experience evidently did not make them more cautious, as they continued to fight for several days afterward. In one instance they came into violent contact with the scantling of a board fence.—C. E. JOHNSON.

Occasionally a subscriber complains that *The Naturalist* does not contain enough material relating to the branch of natural science in which he is particularly interested. To such a one we would say that the pages of *The Naturalist* are open to papers, notes, reviews and photographs relating to any department of natural history and that all suitable material in all branches received to date has been published or is about to be published. If any part of the field of natural history does not receive sufficient attention in *The Naturalist* it is simply because the workers in that part of the field have not been sufficiently active in submitting material for publication. The remedy for such a situation must come from those workers themselves.—EDITOR.



Taverner, P. A. 1923. "Magpies and Stock." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 37(4), 77–77. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338257>.

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