

party with which I was employed found a cow moose with her calf on an island about a quarter of a mile off the south shore of Cedar Lake, Manitoba. The island was covered mostly by willows, and has an area of only a few acres. There were so many spots bedded down, and there had been so much browsing that the conclusion was reached that the old moose had come there to calve and remained on the island thereafter.—C. H. D. CLARKE.

THE RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*) WINTERING IN MANITOBA.—Mr. Frank T. Farley's note on the Red-breasted Nuthatch wintering in Alberta, which appeared in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* of March, 1935, page 61, is of more than passing interest because of recent records of this species in Manitoba.

The first record of a Red-breasted Nuthatch in winter here was made in December, 1933, when temperatures were very low, and snows very deep.

The second record was made here in January, 1935, and several more individuals and pairs were noted in February and March in widely separated woods of this district. In all cases these birds were seen in heavy mixed woods of balsam fir, white spruce, aspen poplar, and white birch.

A nest of the Red-breasted Nuthatch was discovered on Elks Island, five miles from Hillside Beach, Lake Winnipeg, June 23rd, 1934, in mixed woods. The nesting cavity, 20 feet up in a dead birch stub was coated near the entrance with balsam gum (see Reed's *Pocket Guide*).

The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a shy species at any time, and keeping as it usually does to heavy woods it is apt to be overlooked or its calls confused with those of the White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*). Can it be that *Sitta canadensis* is in reality a Permanent instead of a Summer Resident?—FRED J. ROGERS, *Hillside Beach, Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba*.

WOODCOCK FEEDING IN DAYLIGHT.—On April 22, 1934, the writer was climbing a steep hillside on the east bank of the Don River at Toronto and was following the course of a small spring creek which had cut a deep groove in the bank when a Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) was flushed, flew a few yards and dropped back to earth, immediately becoming invisible, as is the way with Woodcock. I stood for a few minutes trying in vain to see the bird and was about to

move on when it appeared from nowhere and after running a yard or two began to feed in the black, mucky soil bordering the spring. This was just before noon on a clear day and at a distance of less than 50 feet I watched it for two or three minutes with X8 bioculars, feeling conscious at the time that I was looking at something which I had never hoped to see and might never see again.

There was really little that was remarkable about the feeding actions of this particular Woodcock, as it walked about slowly, probing deeply with its beak quite like a Dowitcher or Stilt Sandpiper on a mud-flat. Two exceptional points were noted: often, though not each time, after inserting its beak full length in the soil, the bird remained perfectly motionless for several seconds and it seemed a reasonable supposition that at such times the flexible tip of the upper mandible [maxilla] was working; also, the mucky soil adhered freely to the beak and this was scraped off with one foot after nearly every withdrawal. At this distance I could see the earthworms clearly as they were pulled out. These were, of course, immediately swallowed. A slight movement on my part and the Woodcock ran a few feet to the top of a small dry mound where it crouched with the tarsi flat on the ground. Another step and it sprang into the air and disappeared among the second growth of the hillside.

The weather had been cold enough to freeze the surface soil for several nights prior to this date so that a logical explanation of this Woodcock's evident anxiety to feed by day would seem to be that this particular spot was receiving the full heat of the sun, making the soil quite soft and, as investigation showed, well populated with earthworms.—R. J. RUTTER.

THE FORCE OF EXAMPLE.—Regarding this matter in the December '35 issue of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, if Mr. Stuart L. Thompson will refer to my Birds of Hatley published in *The Auk*, vol. 33, 1916, p. 70 and *Auk* vol. 34, 1917, pp. 484-85, he will find that I have recorded the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Myrtle and Black-throated Blue Warblers as having acquired the habit of sap drinking.—HENRY MOUSLEY, Montreal.

ACADIAN CHICKADEE. (*Penthestes hudsonicus*).—The interesting compilation of "Christmas Bird Censuses, 1935" in *The Canadian*



Rogers, Fred J. 1936. "The Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) Wintering in Manitoba." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 50(4), 68–68.

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