

'The Bird,' copied, sending one copy to Mr. Doertenbach and another to Mr. Cress, with the request that they advise me whether or not it resembled the specimen in question. Both agreed that it did not. Mr. Cress, in his reply, stated positively that the photograph sent him "does not compare at all" with his specimen, stating further that "it has no extra long feathers on the back of the head like your photo", but that "its head is smooth like the Grey Eagle or Bald Eagle".

It seems probable that at the time of the collection of the specimen, considerable discussion was engaged in by the interested parties, the conclusion that it was a Harpy being reached without the proper knowledge of the status or appearance of this species. — F. C. LINCOLN, *Denver, Colo.*

Sap Drinking by Sapsuckers and Hummingbirds.— Mr. H. Mousley's notes on 'Sap Drinking Habits of Warblers' bring to mind some of the experiences which Mrs. Wright and I had through considerable of the summer of 1912. The ensuing fall Mrs. Wright made the following notes which might have some interest in this connection.

Mr. Alvah A. Eaton has written of Anna's Hummingbird in California visiting the holes of a Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*). Mr. Frank Bolles has told of his observations of the Ruby-throat (*Trochilus colubris*) in Maine as a regular attendant at the holes of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Last summer we had the pleasure of watching this interesting phenomenon.

We were camping near Dorset, Ontario. Nearby there were many trees girdled with the holes of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Yellow birches were the favorite haunts. Two birches just behind the camp seemed the special rendezvous for both sapsuckers and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Indeed the Hummingbirds seemed very much at home, delicately sipping sap at the table of their yellow-bellied friend. As the holes were about fifteen feet from the ground, we fastened a platform between a ladder and the tree on a level with the holes. Even this unsightly object did not lessen the birds' visits, and one could stand at the top of the ladder with camera on the platform scarcely six feet from the birds. The birds were so active however, that it proved difficult to get many pictures.

There was at least one whole family of sapsuckers who came frequently. Their different modes of approach were interesting. Sometimes, one would fly to a large tree near by, and then directly to the holes after looking all around, or he might fly to the top of the tree and then work his way down the trunk. One bird almost invariably flew to a branch below the holes and one the far side of the trees, edged along this branch, then flew to the side of the tree away from the platform, and next cautiously worked his way around to the fresh holes.

Quite different was the hummer's approach. The first intimation of his visit was likely to be the whirl of wings past one's ears. Quite frequently, he visited the tree while the sapsucker was there, and at times when he

arrived first, even tried to keep the sapsucker away. At other times, the sapsucker retaliated and kept the hummer away. Seldom did the hummer's presence keep the sapsucker from coming. There were at least four hummingbirds that visited this one tree, and the combats between them were highly entertaining. One male would not allow the other male to approach while he was there. He would allow one female to visit, but never the other one. Nor would the two females tolerate one another's society.

Very often the hummers rested quietly on the branches nearby, sometimes for long periods even when no bird was at the tree, neither did we observe that they showed much agitation, swinging the head, as Bolles describes.

In drinking the sap, they most often hovered just below the hole, keeping their bills in the hole and taking long draughts. At other times, they clung to a small projecting piece of bark below the holes, and folded their wings.

The birds usually came from one of two directions and flew away in the same directions, leading us to suppose that there were but two pairs which came, and also that this might be one of a round of trees.

A few butterflies, many hornets, and a host of smaller insects were at the holes. These small insects were, I judged, the attractive feature to the female Black-throated Blue Warbler who visited the tree several times.

These observations extended from July 28—September 10 and were not solely fall records. We noted that the Black-throated Blue Warbler would sometimes hover like a hummingbird before the sap but usually the bird would alight on and proceed diagonally around the hole, more like a nuthatch or Black and White Warbler and not after the fashion of a woodpecker.—A. A. and A. H. WRIGHT, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at Barnstable, Mass.—Mr. W. S. Holway of Watertown, Mass., who has a hunting shanty on the Great Marshes at Barnstable, communicated to the writer the following bird tragedy.

The shanty which has not been in use during the summer was visited on August 26 by Mr. Holway's brother, who was to look it over and put it in order for the fall gunning. As he entered he heard a flutter in the vertical part of the stove pipe, and some distance above the damper discovered a small hole in which he thought he could see something moving. Enlarging the opening to investigate, sixteen birds came flying out one by one. On taking down the pipe he found a solid mass of dead birds from the damper to the hole, and a dozen more in the horizontal run. At the bottom of the outside chimney, into which the horizontal pipe fitted, were at least fifty. In all, he said, there were over one hundred. Specimens brought to the writer for identification proved to be Starlings.

The birds made their entrance through the slots of the cap on the chimney, and were evidently unable to fly up and out of the small pipe or to



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