

Addendum: Later in the summer four additional species were observed in Mohican State Forest including: Chestnut-sided Warbler (2), Northern Parula, Hermit Thrush (3), and an apparent family unit of three Sharp-shinned Hawks.

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Red-breasted nuthatches
Nesting in Cincinnati

Frank Renfrow

On the morning of May 30, 1982, while at Spring Grove Cemetary in Cincinnati, I observed a male red-breasted nuthatch repeatedly visit a hole in a dead limb, some 35-40 feet up in an ash tree.

With further examination, I found that it was apparently feeding a female, the head of which I could see in the hole. The male was feeding (or possibly collecting sap) in nearby hemlock and spruce trees, returning to the hole at roughly five minute intervals. After about a half an hour had elapsed, the female flew out of the hole and into a hemlock, where it stayed for a few minutes. It then flew straight back into the hole, without pausing at the edge.

I returned on the first of June and noticed that the edge of the hole was gleaming in the sunlight, apparently having been smeared with sap. I could still see the female in the hole, but noted no activity during the twenty minutes of observation.

On June the third I found one male feeding in a nearby spruce tree, it then flew onto a branch of the ash, some twenty feet from the nest hole. It rested in that spot until I left fifteen minutes later. From this visit on, I could no longer see any bird sitting on the hole.

I returned to the spot several times within the next week, but with no result. Then on the eleventh of June, I saw 2 red-breasted nuthatches feeding in spruces some 80 yards distant from the nest tree. They both appeared to be males, though of this I was not certain.

I have come back several times weekly since this time and have had no further sightings of this species. As of this writing, the edges of the hole can still be seen to gleam with sap when the sun shines upon it.

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