

tember 19, that whilst passing close to an old silver birch tree on the borders of a large wood, a Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) flew off one of the overhanging branches, which at the time naturally caused me no surprise, nor was I particularly interested, when returning some two hours later the same thing occurred again. However in the afternoon when covering the same ground the warbler again left the branch, as well as a Yellow-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*) the trunk, I must admit my curiosity was aroused, and I decided to secrete myself and await results. It was not long before both birds returned to the tree, the sapsucker to some holes in the trunk, and the warbler to some on the upper side of the branch which I had not noticed. Here he regaled himself on the sap after the manner of his companion, and continued doing so for some considerable time, until I came out of hiding when both birds flew away. For the next two days I visited the spot on several occasions and every time the warbler was there, and usually the sapsucker as well but I never saw the former attempt to take the sap from the holes in the trunk, but only from those on the branch, where it was able to perch readily and drink at leisure, and no doubt eat any small flies or insects that may have got caught in the sap as well. The next case to come under my notice was that of an adult female Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*) which on October 1 (the latest date as it so happens on which I have noticed it here) flew into the branches of a beach tree and commenced imbibing the sap from some old sapsucker holes. Whilst watching it I noticed another cluster of holes in the trunk, and it was not long before the bird on hovering wings after the manner of a hummingbird was abstracting the sap, and no doubt any insects from these also, thus differing in this respect from the Myrtle, which as already stated never once attempted the feat, although no doubt it was quite as competent to perform it as the other. It looks as though this habit may only be resorted to in the fall, when insects are scarce and late departing birds have some difficulty in making all ends meet.— H. MOUSLEY, *Hatley, Que.*

A Roosting Place of Fledgling House Wrens.— A pair of House Wrens which had bred in a box in Mr. George Nelson's garden in Lexington, Mass., brought out their second brood of young in the morning of Aug. 19. 1917. The family remained in the vicinity of the box during the day. At twilight Mr. Nelson watched one of the parents assemble the young birds in a pitch pine tree near the box, and escort them to a little nest or platform well concealed among the pine needles where they settled for the night, huddled together in a compact mass. The Wrens' roosting place is five feet from the ground and twelve feet from the box they were reared in. It is a frail, circular, shallow cup, made of fine roots and was originally no doubt, the foundation of a Chipping Sparrow's nest. On the following night the young birds, after making a tour over the space of half an acre, during which they visited another nest twenty yards away, returned to the same place to roost. On the next evening (Aug. 21) I joined Mr.

Nelson and we watched the fledglings for half an hour at the close of their third day. They were in a pitch pine tree across the driveway from the roost. One or both parents brought food to them every five or ten minutes. These visits occasioned a lively chattering which resembled the clucking of Red-winged Blackbirds on a small scale. After the parent's departure the young birds quieted, although they often continued to give single, double, or triple clucks for a minute or two. Finally, as it was growing dark, about 6.45, all the young birds (five of them) fluttered across the drive and joined their parent. As the little, tailless birds flew overhead in quick succession, they appeared against the sky like tiny Woodcocks rising for a song flight. Nothing could be plainer than that the flight was in obedience to a command from the old bird,—the fledglings started at almost the same instant and hurried off all together. Tonight, under the guidance of the parent, they took a direction away from their former roost. We followed and found three of them in the abandoned nest which they visited last evening. On our arrival they came out and with much chattering withdrew. Twice a bird returned, hopped about the nest for a moment and then flew away. The family settled near, just where we could not see. On the following evening we saw or heard nothing of the brood at twilight.

It would be of interest to learn whether this use of abandoned nests of other birds is a common practice with the House Wren, especially when we recall that the male of some species of wrens builds seemingly useless nests while the female is sitting.—WINSOR M. TYLER, M. D., *Lexington, Mass.*

The Labrador Chickadee (*Penthestes hudsonicus nigricans*) at Cohasset, Mass., late in May.—From May 19 to 23, 1917, inclusive, a Brown-headed Chickadee, probably the Labrador form, was seen several times each day in the garden. The bird was very tame and easily recognized. The peculiar note first attracted my attention, and after once seeing the bird it was easy to find it at any time during its stay with us. Usually it was with a small flock of the Black-capped Chickadee (*Penthestes a. atricapillus*) and was as easily approached and as tame as is its more southern relative. A thick row of spruces bordering the garden seemed to be its favorite haunt. Neither species remained on the place during the summer.—ARTHUR P. CHABOURNE, M. D., *Jerusalem Road, Cohasset, Mass.*

Labrador Chickadees at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec.—It is with pleasure that I record a visit of Dr. Townsend's new subspecies the Labrador Chickadee (*Penthestes hudsonicus nigricans*) to Hatley, on its return journey to its breeding grounds. The birds were first observed on May 14 and between that date and the thirtieth on which the last was seen, seven examples were secured, three being sent to Dr. Townsend, and the other four to the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa. The former