

torquata and *alcyon*, the African *maxima* being considered a *Megaceryle*. It is a question whether *M. alcyon* is not actually the most distinct species of the genus, differing as it does in its small size, slender bill, and pointed wing, and in certain details of coloration. This fact also weighs against the recognition of *Streptoceryle*.

As further bearing on this question, the case of *Chloroceryle* is worthy of attention. *C. amazona* differs from its three congeners in its distinct crest, nearly even tail, relatively longer second toe, eighteen (instead of fourteen or fifteen) secondaries, and in its larger size. While absolute consistency in our classification is probably impossible of attainment, yet in this particular case the proper course seems clear, namely that if *Streptoceryle* be recognized, then *Chloroceryle* must also be divided. In its coloration, eutaxic wing and scaleless tarsus, *C. amazona* agrees with the three other species of the genus, and as in the case of *Megaceryle*, it seems far better to leave this natural genus intact.— W. DeW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

The Sapsucker Wintering in Central Maine.— Inasmuch as the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is a bird of evil repute the facts about to be recorded may not be particularly welcome but as the couplet

“ In men whom men condemn as ill
I find so much of goodness still,”

may be true also of ‘ our little brothers of the air ’ I wish to speak a good word for this much maligned bird.

The Sapsucker is a bird which is not common in our locality. Previous to the winter of 1911-1912 I had seen it only rarely, during migrations, the dates being April 17-19 and October 3-5. Therefore I was much surprised on December 11, 1911, to observe one of these birds in our apple tree in company with a Downy. At first I thought it simply a tardy migrant, but when its visit was repeated on the 13th, 14th and 15th of the month, with snow falling on the last day, my curiosity was aroused to see whether it would winter with us. The nearest approach I could find to a statement of its wintering in our latitude was in an article which appeared in the ‘ Lewiston (Maine) Journal,’ under date of April 21, 1898, in which the writer says that the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, “ is said to be migratory, but if he is, he frequently stays with us very late and returns very early,” but this statement seems too indefinite to prove the point in question.

My observations were made from the windows of my home and the trees which the bird visited so regularly were sufficiently near to allow most excellent views of him in all positions. He appeared on the 18th, 19th, and 30th of December and on New Year’s Day he spent nearly the entire forenoon in the apple trees near the house, lurching from the frozen fruit which had been left on the trees and hunting over the trunks and branches.

On January 2, he evidently came as soon as it was light and remained until nearly dark, putting in a nine-hour day of hard work without intermission,

going at intervals to peck at the apples, but spending the greater part of the time upon the trunks of the trees. The vigorous way in which he threw off great flakes of bark was amusing, and quite a quantity of bark accumulated on the snow under the trees. Who shall say that this work on the trees was not beneficial? One pretty habit which may be worth noting is that while pecking at the apples he would often cling with his feet to the apple he was eating and hang, head downward, as chickadees so often do.

On January 3, he was here the greater part of the forenoon, but about noon there was a great commotion and we rushed to the window only to see an impending tragedy. A Northern Shrike was chasing our Sapsucker. Nearly two weeks elapsed during which time I grieved over the untimely fate of the little feathered friend I was watching with so much interest,—two weeks of extreme cold and of severe storms. On the afternoon of January 16, however, he returned to his old haunts, eating apples and hunting on the tree trunks alternately. He did not seem quite as strong and active as before, owing, perhaps, to the severe weather of the previous fortnight, the mercury having ranged from 28° to 32° below zero.

It was interesting to me to notice on this occasion the perfection of his protective coloring. The trunks of the trees were quite snowy with the rather damp snow clinging to the bark and as the bird remained almost motionless for some time on the trunk of an apple tree his spotted back and the longitudinal stripes on his wings simulated the bark of the tree with the snow upon it so as to almost defy detection. I could locate him only with difficulty even though I knew just where to look. The next day he came again and seemed as sprightly as ever and we also saw him January 19–22, 24 and 31, February 2, 6 and 9, and March 1, 3, 5, 10, 12 and 20. He was also present April 2 and 5, after which date I surmise that he went farther north.

Since that year I have seen the Sapsucker only occasionally during the migrations, the dates being approximately as previously given, in April and October.—HARRIET A. NYE, *Fairfield Center, Me.*

A Crested Flycatcher injured by Swallowing a Grasshopper.—At Royal Palm Hammock, Dade County, Florida, January 24, 1918, I noticed a Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) fluttering along the road through the jungle, unable to fly. I caught it in my hand and found it weak and much emaciated. Closer examination and dissection showed a grasshopper's femur about an inch long in the abdominal cavity, the larger end protruding for a distance of a quarter of an inch, but not having punctured the skin. This leg had apparently been swallowed by the bird and had worked through the wall of the stomach into the abdomen.

I am indebted to Mr. Alexander Wetmore, of the Biological Survey, for the following notes on the injury to the stomach:

“Examination of the stomach showed a hole through the wall at the extreme lower end of the ventriculus, slightly to one side, where the stomach