

Sapsuckers Feeding Sap to Young.—Near Fortine, Montana, during the summer of 1923, I observed a pair of Red-naped Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*) gathering sap to feed to their young in the nest. A regular tree-route, followed alternately by the male and female, included a quaking aspen, a large alder, and a large willow, in which borings had been made. The birds flew directly from the nest to the aspen, and gathered the sap that had accumulated since the last visit; then flew to the alder and to the willow, repeating the process; and finally flew back to the nest, without hunting for insects. Occasionally the male would vary the process by catching a few flies from the air, eating some and carrying some into the nest. When the supply of sap at one of the trees ran low, one of the birds would drill new holes above the uppermost old ones.

Several times during the absence of the birds I examined the sap-wells, and in no case found insects caught on the sticky cambium, or even hovering near. Nor did the birds look for insects when they approached a tree; instead they alighted immediately in position to obtain the sap, and thrust their bills well up in the upper edge of the "flowing wells," often turning their heads sidewise in order to pry beneath the bark.—WINTON WEYDEMEYER, Moccasin, Montana.

Long-eared Owl capturing Ruffed Grouse.—The Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*) is reputed to be among the most beneficial representatives of its family. However it seems that as in the case of most predatory species, certain individuals sometimes develop exceptional food-habits. Such a case has recently been brought to my attention.

Near Firstfork, Cameron County, Pennsylvania, Mr. Chauncey E. Logue, Trapping Instructor of the State Game Commission found within one week evidence of the killing of two Ruffed Grouse by the Long-eared Owl. On December 24, 1925, an Owl was flushed from the shadow of a low hemlock, where a partially eaten Grouse was found. Three days later and not far away, the same kind of Owl (possibly the same individual) was found eating another Grouse. This time the Owl was shot and sent in for identification. In both cases there was evidence that a struggle had taken place, not only in the boughs of the hemlock where feathers clung, and in the grape vines where the Owl had evidently first attacked its prey, but also in the snow where the Grouse had struggled. Absence of all tracks of quadrupeds shows that no mammal caught the Grouse in either case; and a logical inference is that if a Great Horned Owl had captured the birds, most of their bodies would have been eaten, or the larger species of Owl would at least have been on guard. The Grouse were both torn at the neck, but most of the feeding had been done about the head and in the visceral region.

These Grouse-killing proclivities are probably due either to a local abundance of Grouse or to a great scarcity of other food, for it seems hardly possible that so light a creature as the Long-eared Owl should customarily kill creatures so much heavier than itself, although such a