

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

habit is not without a parallel among the other birds of prey.—GEORGE MIKSCH SURTON, *Pennsylvania State Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.*

Crow Alighting on the Water.—While on a Duck hunting trip on December 19, 1925, on Seneca Lake, an unusual incident occurred which was witnessed by myself and my two friends who were in the blind at the time.

We had watched the Crows from a nearby roost flying over the blind to the western shore of the lake and in the afternoon when the Crows returned we took passing shots at those which came within range. While looking out over the water for one which might prove a suitable target our attention was attracted to a bird flying very low over the surface and straight towards us. We were all certain it was a Crow but it suddenly stiffened its wings and dropped into the lake! About ten seconds elapsed before it took flight again and continued on its course coming directly for our blind as before. During the time the bird was in the water I did not take my eyes from it. As it drew nearer we all prepared to shoot and not until it had flown directly over the stools and around one side of the blind did we realize that it *was* a Crow and not a Scoter or a Cormorant or any of the many other things we had thought when we saw it drop into the water.

I have endeavored to explain the incident to myself in many ways—that the bird might have lit on a log or some other piece of floating debris; that he might have been flying all of the time and only appeared to have been resting on the water; or that he might have been one of the water birds already mentioned—but all my theories are unconvincing. The water was not rough enough to prevent him from being in view all the time and if he had alighted on some floating object it would have been apparent. As for the identification I can only say that I have studied birds for fifteen years.

I have since talked with Mr. Louis A. Fuertes and he has told me of twice seeing a Great Blue Heron alight in deep water. I would be glad to hear from any observers who have had similar experiences or who can offer any other explanations to my observation.—R. M. CHASE, *Sigma Phi Place, Ithaca, N. Y.*

The Blue Jay in eastern Massachusetts.—I cannot do better than begin this screed with a quotation from Mr. Burleigh's article on "Breeding Habits of Georgia Birds" in the last July 'Auk.' In commenting on the Blue Jay Mr. Burleigh says that "in the North it is a bird of the woods, with a natural curiosity in the ways of man but suspicious of any intimacy and during the breeding season shunning civilization as much as possible." He goes on to say that the Jay in the South apparently has lost "this shyness" and is as much a bird of the town and even cities as the English Sparrow. Well, this, too, is just what the Blue Jay is in this section of