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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

accompanied by a parent, were discovered in nearby ground shrubbery. Here one of them, standing on a slanting rock and obviously concerned over my too close approach, bobbed its body in the same manner as do Canyon Wrens and Rock Wrens.

As this performance was repeated two more times while I was observing this youngster, the conclusion seems warranted that it was a manifestation of an inherited instinct or ancestral trait, which seems to become inoperative in mature birds of this species, while still surviving in the adults of *Catherpes* and *Salpinctes*. At any rate I have never noticed such a performance by adults of *Troglodytes*, although it seems probable that an occasional grown-up may retain a habit which most of them live down.

This trait may, of course, be rare among juvenals of this species, and they may be, only now, tardily beginning to manifest an inherent wren group tendency, already well developed in the two other groups before mentioned.—J. EUGENE LAW, *Altadena, California, March 25, 1926.*

The White-throated Swift in western Yolo County, California.—The White-throated Swift (*Aëronautes melanoleucus*) has been reported along the Sierra-Cascade range north to Mount Shasta (Merriam, N. Amer. Fauna, no. 16, 1899, p. 117) and in the inner coast ranges to Mount Diablo (Cohen, Condor, v, 1903, p. 119). Its presence in more northern portions of the inner coast ranges might therefore be expected, since these hills resemble, ecologically, the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada. On May 21 and 30, 1925, I saw and heard White-throated Swifts over Putah Cañon, on the Yolo-Solano County boundary, about five miles west of Winters; six birds were observed on the former date. The cañon wall at that point has basaltic outcrops which would afford suitable nesting places, while abundant forage is available in the air over the stream. Search for nesting locations has, however, thus far been unfruitful.—TRACY I. STORER, *Zoological Laboratory, University Farm, Davis, California, April 8, 1926.*

An Unsuspected Relationship.*—The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*) does not get his living from grubs, borers and other insects, thus being a benefit to man, but from the green bark and sap of healthy, thrifty trees. Thus he has always been condemned as a pest that must be destroyed. He is not protected by game laws and is condemned to be shot. Father had us shooting them for injuring his fruit and other trees. I studied a long time before I found out why such a harmful creature was ever created.

Years ago the nurseryman and orchardist used to girdle their fruit trees to make them bear fruit. A tree too thrifty and growing fast bears sparingly; but by checking its growth, that is, stunting the trees without injuring them too much, by girdling them or cutting a ring of the bark around several branches, those branches set to forming fruit buds more than leaf buds. By being familiar with this method I traced up the benefits of the sapsucker. He girdles the fruit and seed bearing trees that a multitude of birds depend on for food at certain seasons and which build their nests near such trees to provide handy food for their young. So this busy little sapsucker is really providing for them all. Poor persecuted little blessing! That's what I now think of him.

Much of this lesson I learned by gathering seed. I learned long ago that it was not the fast growing and thrifty trees that bore the seed, but those stunted ones, or trees in which the growth had been checked in some way. By looking closer I found that most of them had a girdle of holes. Many species of birds depend on black cherry, mountain ash, choke-cherry, viburnum and other trees of berry bearing variety. By observing closely I noticed that all trees of the above mentioned kinds had some branches drilled or girdled, thus keeping some bearing wood at work each year. Any one ought to see that it is a very serious matter to remove one link from nature's chain; and killing off the sapsucker would be serious.—CHARLES DOUGLAS, SR., *Waukegan, Ill., May 1, 1926.*

The Magpie Nesting in Kansas.—On May 28, 1925, I found a nest of the Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*) along the Arkansas River and two miles east of the Colorado-Kansas line in Hamilton County, Kansas. The nest was fifteen feet from the ground in a leaning willow which was growing at the edge of the flood-plain of the river. The

* Transmitted by Professor W. C. Allee, University of Chicago.