

sincere thanks to Mr. J. Claire Wood for his generosity in placing at my disposal his set and notes. An extensive article about it has been sent to the Auk for the benefit of the New England and New York ornithologists.

W. F. HENNINGER.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS VS. BLUE JAYS.—On the 25th of October of the past year, while walking through a grove of hickory and oaks, I was startled by the sharp cry of a Blue Jay close above my head, and on looking up became aware that a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers and four Blue Jays were engaged in a noisy encounter over a large fragment of decayed suet, which had probably been obtained from a neighboring refuse pile. The Red-heads were in possession of the morsel and the Jays were doing their best to get it away from them. The Jays repeatedly attacked and were repulsed as often by the Woodpeckers, the latter easily dispersing the assaulters by attempting to pierce the bodies of the Jays with their sharp bills. The Jays' principal method of attack was to singly pounce down near the Red-heads on the trunk of the tree on which the Woodpeckers had established themselves and utter shrill cries and try to snatch the suet, but on finding that single attempts were of no avail, rallied their forces and then made a general advance, each adopting a different method of strategy to gain the desired end. All their efforts were of no use, and after almost a half hour of fierce battle, the Jays left the Red-heads with their quarry and flew off, apparently much disappointed and disgusted to the other end of the grove. Bearing in mind that the Jays are not prone to give in quickly and are also quite covetous, I remained sitting on a fallen stump just out of view of the Red-heads and watched to see if they would renew the combat. Several times a single Jay returned to the scene of the battle, approaching as quietly as possible until assured that the Woodpeckers were still on guard, and then with loud calls flew back and joined its fellows. This was quite an unique encounter, and the first ever to come to my attention in which the principals were the Red-heads and the Jays.

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BLUEBIRDS VS. ENGLISH SPARROWS.—At Pompton Junction, N. J., on February 2, I found a pair of Bluebirds engaged in defending a deserted Woodpecker's home from the assault of eight or ten English Sparrows. The conflict continued intermittently until March 4, when the Sparrows went off to a neighboring apple tree and established themselves there. The Bluebirds immediately began gathering nesting materials and displayed indications of early breeding. On the 7th the nest was found to have been completed