

Barrow's Golden-eye using Crow nests in British Columbia.—There appears to be no mention in the literature of Barrow's Golden-eye (*Bucephala islandica*) nesting in old Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) nests. This note records two such nests. Munro (1939. *Trans. Royal Can. Inst.*, 22 (Pt. 2):259-327) recorded six nests of Barrow's Golden-eye found in British Columbia, five of them in holes in trees and one in a marmot burrow. He also noted nests found on the ground in other parts of the world, but did not mention utilization of stick nests.



During the summer of 1948, I was employed by the University of British Columbia and the British Columbia Game Commission to participate in a waterfowl population survey on Anahim Lake, B. C., and vicinity (Lat. 52° 30' N., Long. 125° 20' W.), an area about 90 miles from salt water at Bella Coola, but in the dry lee of the Coast Mountains.

On June 6, with J. S. Tener, I was working on Abuntlet Lake, the first lake downstream from Anahim Lake on the Dean River. There were two small islands in this shallow lake, each less than 200 feet long and about 50 feet wide. One was low and covered with dense alder and willow growth while the other rose higher from the water, was forested with trembling aspen and Engelmann spruce, and fringed with alder and willow at its shores. Both islands had a dense understory of an unidentified *Ribes*.

The waterfowl nests located on these islands were: seven Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), three Barrow's Golden-eye, one Pintail (*Anas acuta*), and one Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). One occupied Crow nest was found. Two of the three Golden-eye nests were in old Crow nests and the third was in a hole twelve feet up in a large aspen stub. Of the two in Crow nests, one was fifteen feet above the water in a willow (*Salix* sp.), the other seven feet over the water in an alder (*Alnus sinuata*). They contained six and eight eggs respectively. The photograph is of the former nest. Both clutches were unchanged on June 24, and both had fully hatched by June 28.

Such nesting sites may be commonly used in western British Columbia, for C. F. McLeod, in 1950, noted that similar nesting sites were used near Stum Lake (Lat. 52° 20' N., Long. 123° 00' W.).

It should be noted that if nesting sites limited the size of golden-eye populations about these lakes, then the Crow could have augmented waterfowl production through providing suitable sites. This is an interesting possibility for a species popularly regarded as detrimental to breeding populations of waterfowl.—R. Y. EDWARDS, *British Columbia Forest Service, Victoria, B. C., September 2, 1952.*

Warblers, hummingbird, and sapsucker feeding on sap of yellow birch.—From September 3 to 6, 1952, I observed a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), two Black-throated Blue Warblers (*Dendroica caerulescens*), a Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*), and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*) as they came to feed on the sap of a yellow birch (*Betula lenta*) in Tamworth, New Hampshire. The tree had been drilled by sapsuckers in previous years and was partly dead. The Cape May Warbler was first noticed on September 4, when it clung to the bark and dipped its bill repeatedly in holes which a hummingbird had been visiting. Soon after, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler lit in the same place. It fed for 30 seconds, rested a bit on a twig, then fed for another 30 seconds before flying away. Both species of warbler fed in much the same fashion and seemingly were afraid of wasps which came to the feeding area in small numbers. The Cape May Warbler paid 5 visits in 75 minutes. On September 6, it was observed again feeding off and on for 6 minutes at the sapsucker holes. Black-throated Blue Warblers visited the tree eight times during periods of observation; two of the visits were by females. The longest single period at the tree for the sapsucker was 35 minutes and for the hummingbird, 15 minutes. It would seem unlikely that these visitors were after insects as a continuous supply would have been required and I saw none on close inspection. It also seemed improbable that the warblers were after water since there was a small brook nearby.

Observations of hummingbirds and warblers feeding at sapsucker-drilled trees have been previously recorded (Bent, A. C., *U. S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 174:136, 150). For these birds, the sap may serve as a substitute for nectar. This approach to nectar-feeding by warblers is of interest in view of Beecher's recent statement (1951. *Wilson Bull.*, 63:274–287) that the warblers (Parulidae) are, in fact, closely related and probably ancestral to certain honey creepers ("tribe Coerebini") which are confirmed nectar-feeders.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, 8302 Garfield Street, Bethesda, Maryland, October 11, 1952.

Siskin and goldfinch feeding at sapsucker tree.—On December 28, 1952, I watched a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) that was visiting his borings 30 feet up in the trunk of a 50-foot sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) growing in a swampy portion of the Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, Georgia.

A Common Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) and several Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) were gathering food from the dried fruit capsules hanging in the same tree. When the sapsucker left the trunk a siskin replaced him at the borings and began to pick lightly at them. Evidently the bird was taking sap because it hesitated a while between "picks"—apparently waiting for more sap to flow. The same siskin made three trips to these holes before being chased away by the returning sapsucker. Again the woodpecker left and was replaced this time by the goldfinch which behaved in a manner similar to that of the siskin.—H. LEWIS BATTS, JR., *Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan, January 9, 1953.*