

obtaining the sap as it flows from them, and also to attract the insects upon which they feed to the same spot, so that they can satisfy their hunger and thirst without having to over-exert themselves in so doing. If life was not so short I might be tempted here to go into the question as to whether this bird had to acquire this habit because its tongue was peculiarly fitted for it, or whether the tongue became modified so as to just suit the habit after the bird had acquired it; for the bird's tongue certainly differs from that of other Canadian Woodpeckers and is admirably fitted for the use to which it is put. A discussion of the question would exceed the scope of this article, and probably not lead to anything after all. We know the bird has this habit and the question is, what is the effect of it upon the trees which are bored? I have made what observations I could, and as many enquiries from others as possible, and have come to the conclusion that the only real damage done is that a young tree may be tendered un-ightly for a time, or it may even be permanently disfigured by some peculiarity in the healing of the bark, but usually no harm ensues. That a tree ever was or could be killed by it I do not believe, for I have never yet seen or heard any evidence in proof of it.

Apart from its sap-drinking peculiarity the bird's record is excellent; it is not a fruit or grain eater, but devotes itself to the destruction of insects that live on the trees or hide in the loose bark. Ants form a large proportion of its food. These it obtains from the rotten wood in which they burrow, as it does not descend to the ground in search of them. Beetles and moths are also sought out and devoured, but as this bird's tongue is not as well barbed as that of some of the other Woodpeckers, fewer grubs of the wood-boring class are eaten by it. I suppose if any man believes that these birds are doing an injury to his trees he should be allowed to protect himself in the only way possible, viz., by getting rid of the birds on his own premises; but for his own sake he should be sure he gets rid of the right one, and that neither the Downy nor the Hairy is destroyed by mistake. Both the Downy and the Hairy Woodpecker remain with us all through the year, whilst the Sapsucker is a summer resident only: so that whenever a Woodpecker is seen in the winter it should be spared, for it is most certainly a beneficial one.

*Nuthatches, Chickadee and Tree Creeper.* Of these we have two species of Nuthatches,—the White-breasted and Red-breasted,—one Chickadee and one Creeper. They are all resident species, though more frequently seen about cultivated lands in the winter than in any other season. They are among the most active insect destroyers we have, gleaning their food from the bark, branches and leaves of trees, and seldom descending to the ground, though when wood-chopping is going on in the bush the logs, sticks and chips will all be carefully searched for grubs which have been exposed by the axe. The familiarity displayed by these little creatures at this time is very pleasing. As soon as work begins and the first few strokes of the axe sound through the bush, they gather round and investigate every piece of bark and decayed wood thrown open, and from each one gather some prizes. It is very amusing to watch the little Chickadee when he finds a large grub of one of the borers partly exposed. He pulls and tugs at it until it comes out, and then securely holding it down with his feet he tears it in pieces and devours it. Without the assistance of the chopper it is but seldom that they can get at the larger grubs that bore deeply into the solid wood, as they have neither the strength nor proper tools for digging them out; but they have found out that when the farmer gets out his cordwood their opportunity for a feast arrives, and so they take advantage of it. As a general rule, however, they scour the bush, orchard and shrubbery in merry little parties searching for food, from time to time uttering their musical notes, which always