

then, appears to be the usual custom. The wrens and the nut-hatches and chickadees succeed to these abandoned cavities, and often have amusing disputes over them. The nut-hatches frequently pass the night in them, and the wrens and chickadees nest in them. I⁵ have further observed that in excavating a cavity for a nest the downy woodpecker makes the entrance smaller than when he is excavating his winter quarters. This is doubtless for the greater safety of the young birds.

The next fall, the downy excavated another limb in the old apple-tree, but had not got his retreat quite finished, when the large hairy woodpecker appeared upon the scene. I heard his loud *click, click*, early one frosty November morning. There was something¹⁰ impatient and angry in the tone that arrested my attention. I saw the bird fly to the tree where Downy had been at work, and fall with great violence upon the entrance to his cavity. The bark and the chips flew beneath his vigorous blows, and before I fairly¹⁵ woke up to what he was doing, he had completely demolished the neat, round doorway of Downy. He had made a large ragged opening large enough for himself to enter. I drove him away and my favourite came back, but only to survey the ruins of his castle for a²⁰ moment and then go away. He lingered about for a day or two and then disappeared. The big hairy usurper passed a night in the cavity, but on being hustled out of it the next night by me, he also left, but not till he had demolished the entrance to a cavity in²⁵ a neighbouring tree where Downy and his mate had reared their brood that summer, and where I had hoped the female would pass the winter.