

black; with broad white bands on wings, conspicuous in flight. A high-shouldered, stocky bird. Toes arranged two in front, two behind, for purposes of clinging to the rough bark of trees. Tail strong and rounded that it may be used as a prop.

RANGE—From the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic—north as far as Manitoba (seldom found in New England States).

MIGRATIONS—Very irregular—migrates only when he cannot find plenty of food to keep him through the winter.

SONG—Does not sing.

NEST—A hollow, chiselled out of some partly decayed tree.

EGGS—Glossy white.

FLIGHT—Strong, direct.

FOOD—Insects, beechnuts, acorns, grasshoppers.

HABITS—He stores nuts and other food for winter use in holes and crevices as does the squirrel. He flits from stump to fence-post and catches insects on the wing. The only time it pecks wood is when making a hole for its nest. Though he does not sing he indulges his musical propensities by beating a tattoo with his beak on tin roofs and gutters, seasoned limbs of hardwood trees, or any convenient sounding board which he is able to discover.