

young are nude little creatures, having a very faint trace of down upon the feather tracts. At the end of a week the feathers are quite well grown, and the superciliary stripe begins to show. After the tenth day one of the young may often be seen looking out of the nest, but at the least disturbance retreats to lower quarters. At the age of two weeks the young leave the nest, and are led to pastures new; for suitable insects for their diet have been well garnered near home, and they must move to where their food is more plentiful.

Some months are devoted to the education of the young birds, who are shown where to look for food. It is interesting indeed to follow a family of these feathered mites, observe their movements and listen to their talk when they all alight in the top of some spruce or fir tree, and with much twittering search among the cones and twigs. Soon all are off to another tree, and the searching and jeering go on; many insects, caterpillars and eggs of various insects are taken. No doubt, many small seeds are also eaten. Toward autumn and throughout the winter the birds are often observed upon highways, searching among the excrements dropped by horses. One specimen in the writer's collection was struck by the foot of a passing horse and killed. When night comes on, a roosting place is chosen among thick grown conifers.

Thus the Red-breasted Nuthatches pass the time, and among their feathered companions are others of our hardy annual aves, such as the Black-capped and Hudsonian Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Downy Woodpecker, the half-hardy Brown Creeper and semi-annual Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

The adults of the Red-breasted Nuthatch measure from four and one-half to four and three quarters inches in length. Of this the tail takes one and one-half inches and the bill one-half inch. The upper parts are leaden blue, brightest in the adult male, who has a black crown, with a white stripe over the eye, and a black stripe through the eye. The under parts are of various shades of brownish, being lightest in young birds and richest in adult males. The wings are fuscous with pale ashy edgings; the tail-feathers, except the middle pair, black, the lateral, marked with white.