

## THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW

gun, who is at all times ready to destroy every Woodpecker found in the neighborhood of an orchard. This fellow can only be knocked out by facts, hard facts such as are furnished by the fair minded report of Mr. Beal. Of course any one who has studied Woodpeckers with any sort of care, is well aware of the fact that insects are the attraction for the bird, even in an orchard, in fact insects are first considered at all times. It is quite true that an occasional cherry finds its way into the stomach of our red headed friends, but as the death penalty is not exacted in the case of the predatory boy occasionally found in the cherry tree, it might be dispensed with in the case of the Woodpecker. Mr. Beal gives many interesting facts regarding the food of seven varieties of Woodpeckers, all known in Kingston, viz., the Downy, Hairy, Flicker or Highholder, Red Headed, Red Bellied, Yellow Bellied and Pileated, and the commonest and smallest, viz. the Downy, must be regarded as the most industrious insect destroyer. One hundred and forty stomachs were examined, and were found to contain 74 per cent of insects, 25 per cent vegetable matter, one per cent of mineral matter or sand. Many wood boring caterpillars and plant lice were found, to say nothing of the eggs of grasshoppers. The Hairy Woodpecker is much like the Downy in appearance, although larger, and similar in habits. The Flicker is a genuine ant eater, the very common Red Head feeds largely on insects found on bare spots, such as telegraph poles and rail fences, and evidence is given to show that the Red Head sometimes stores grasshoppers in the cracks of posts. The Pileated Woodpecker, or as we know him, Cock of the Woods, is not written of at any great length, but is of

course beyond suspicion, as he is a bird of the woods and avoids civilization. A few years ago he was comparatively common about Kingston, but the boy and his gun have made him scarce. Not many years ago though, I saw a large number exposed for sale on the Kingston market. Mr. Beal's investigations go to prove the Woodpeckers among the most useful of our insectivorous birds, and while it is true that all take fruit and vegetable matter to a limited extent, the fruits and seeds selected are generally those growing wild. The impression that nearly all of the Woodpeckers are sap-sucking and so injurious to trees is done away with, and the Yellow Bellied is the only one convicted to any extent, and in his case the virtues outweigh the faults. Strange to say in Ontario the Nuthatches are commonly called "Sap Suckers," although there is little evidence to show that they should be included in the list.

The Woodpeckers have now been clearly and scientifically proved to occupy a position of usefulness in the community, and it is to be hoped that their claims for protection will be generally recognized.

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Liszt stayed once over night in a small town. Naturally enough, several of his admirers, amongst them the Mayor of the place, got up a banquet for him. They were already seated at the table, when the burgomaster remarked that the party consisted of thirteen in number. "Do not be alarmed" said Liszt "I will eat for two."

A musician returned a M.S. with the following inscription: "people may play your composition, when Beethoven and Wagner are long forgotten but not before!"