

trunk. The sound of hammering reached my ears. Spells of hammering were interrupted frequently, but only long enough for the bird's head to appear through the nest-hole as she inspected the net. For almost two hours the bird kept up this behavior while I watched. Then I went to the tree as quietly as possible from such a direction as to be completely hidden from the opening. There I waited until there was a pause in the hammering and the scratching sounds told me that she had climbed to her perch of inspection at the hole. I struck the trunk a resounding blow with a piece of barrel stave. There was a brief scratching inside, and the hammering began again.

A tactual survey of the tree trunk with my finger tips revealed that the bird was drilling a hole on the opposite side of the tree from the original nest-opening, a back door, so to speak. How could such a woodpecker be captured? As I went away the drum-beat of her carpentry continued as long as I was within ear-shot.

Next day I passed by that tree again. The nest was deserted. The back door had not been completed.—G. HARGOOD PARKS, 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

Report on a sick Northern White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis* Lath.) Adult ♀ No. 138-14509, banded December 11, 1938 at Laceyville, Pennsylvania. Trapped in a Potter single cell trap on a window feeding shelf. Was retaken in the following manner—on January 20, 1939, I noticed a feathery ball clinging to the trunk of a large maple tree, about four feet above the ground, and on examining more closely realized it was a nuthatch. I easily picked the little bird off the tree trunk, and noticed the band which, upon checking my records, revealed the banding data given above. The nuthatch was put in a gathering cage, and kept warm in the kitchen. The little visitor shivered with chills, and showed considerable weakness. It tried to eat some peanuts, but became weaker and died in the evening.

The nuthatch was immediately sent to Dr. C. Brooke Worth, who was then at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa. I received a letter from Dr. Worth dated January 28, 1939, which contained interesting data, and quote here parts from his letter: "Allow me to express my gratitude to you for submitting the nuthatch. Due to the pressure of the new semester I was unable to work on it until 24 hours after receiving it, so that decomposition had advanced rather farther than desirable. However, I was able to observe the following pathologic changes: Plumage, skeleton, and muscular development normal. Subcutaneous fat deficient. One lung markedly congested. Stomach contained gravel but no food. Intestines showed profound hemorrhages throughout. Microscopical examination of intestinal blood disclosed many small cysts. Liver grossly normal. Pancreas, spleen, and gonads liquefied (decomposed). Kidney normal."

On the basis of the observations I believe that the bird had a hemorrhagic enteritis caused by some sort of amoeba, and that the immediate cause of death was a terminal pneumonitis consequent upon malnutrition and lowered resistance."—CHARLES C. VANDERVORT, Laceyville, Pennsylvania.

A Migratory White-Breasted Nuthatch.—The White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis* Lath.) is generally considered a permanent resident, although it is said to make some migration during the winter from its extreme northerly range to a more southerly region.

E. H. Forbush writes, in his "Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States," "They often appear in winter where they never breed," while Thomas S. Roberts states, in his "Birds of Minnesota," 1936, under General Range, "The White-breasted Nuthatch is resident where found." F. C. Lincoln, in his book on migration, 1939, makes the statement that in the coastal plane between Washington, D. C., and the ocean, the White-breasted Nuthatch is usually absent during the summer, retiring to the higher Piedmont country to breed, and late in the fall it appears in the wooded lowlands, where it remains until the following