

Sapsucker given due credit

BY ART BRIGGS-JUDE
Maple syrup, with all of its traditional flavor and goodness, is now being harvested and processed wherever these symbolic trees are found growing across the county.

And while the popularity of this original pancake topping increases, the critter probably most responsible for this natural delicacy flits nonchalantly around, apparently unimpressed with all the activity taking place in its preferred woodlot.

Whenever and wherever man discovered the food value of maple sap we are not entirely certain. However, you can be assured that the actions of the yellow-bellied sapsucker had a lot to do with it.

Its habit of chiselling little wells in tree trunks to collect the flowing sap must have attracted man's attention even in the earliest of times.

And if its presence at these

sweet-gummed trees was not noticed, then the results of its drilling most certainly were. Maple trees, for example, have been found with the trunks and surrounding ground saturated by this fresh-flowing liquid, all a result of the sapsucker's tapping.

Although it would appear such sap-letting might damage the tree permanently, most seem able to stop the flow and survive.

The yellow-bellied sapsucker, our common species, picks on other varieties of trees as well as maples. In fact any smooth barked kind such as apple or cherry may become its base of operations.

Occasionally this sweet-toothed carpenter chooses an evergreen, whose thick gummy sap gives it food of a different variety.

No matter what tree type is chosen however, the proce-

sure is always the same. The sapsucker makes a series of holes around the tree trunk, then sits patiently till the oozing syrup fills these small cavities.

At such times these bark-clinging birds may be approached quite closely as they hang dozing on the trunk in the spring sunshine.

Insects such as ants are often attracted to the fresh sap and these too are relished by our tipping member of the woodpecker family. Actually a diet of sap alone would be detrimental to the bird, so its tapping escapades are utilized as supplementary tune ups.

So well has it developed this ancient art, that it knows which individual tree in a grove or orchard, for example, provides the best tasting juice and to these favorites the sapsucker returns each year.

If these birds were as numerous as starlings, fruit tree own-

ers would have a real problem, but in Nature's overall plan the sapsucker is spread out pretty thinly. Then too, later in the spring, hummingbirds welcome this sweet treat when early blossoms are a bit hard to come by.

Watch for this medium-sized woodpecker in your neighborhood during the next month or so. Unlike the similar sized hairy or the smaller downy woodpecker, the sapsucker's red patches are on the forehead and under the chin.

And if you want to have a really close look, try tapping your knuckles on a nearby tree. If it's like the ones I've seen, it will come hopping right over to investigate this intruder whose knocking around in its selected neighbourhood.

TIPS & CLIPS: Bluebirds began arriving in March. Make sure you clean your nest-boxes out, or your bluebirds will move elsewhere.

Royal Custom Upholstering
• Recovering • Restyling

on sofas, chairs, ottomans, dining room chairs or purchase a new custom wing chair in your choice of leather or fabric.

Fabric wing chairs starting at **\$295.00** each.

Domenic Belmonte
Phone 475-7894

Shop at home... free estimates... free pick up & delivery



Carvel
The Ice Cream Factory PRESENTS **SPRING FAMILY DAY**

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

on every take home product in the store while quantities last

Carvel Family Day (one day only)
Sunday, April 17, 1988
Sunkist Plaza
48 & 16th Ave.
471-7652
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK



farmer Jack's
GARDENS INC.

GARDEN CENTRE
MAIN ST W., STOUFFVILLE
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK — 640-5080

Fertilizer Sale!
Superturf 21-3-9
Reg. \$22.95
Sale Price **\$19.95**

Model Gazebos On Site
From **\$994⁰⁰**

We also carry

- Unilock
- Limestone Screening
- Sand
- Seeds - spring bulbs
- patio slabs
- 1/2 barrels
- fertilizer
- R.R. ties
- Bark chips
- Gardening gloves
- Peat moss
- Garden tools
- Clay pots
- Potting soil

FAST DELIVERY



Planecraft Ltd.
Fine Custom Furniture & Kitchens
KITCHENS - WALL UNITS - BAR UNITS
BEDROOM SUITES - DINING ROOM SUITES
BATHROOM SUITES - TABLE AND CHAIRS

Our Custom Work is made to fit your specifications like a fine-tailored suit. — Not like a suit off the rack made for everyone else.

We are committed to Excellence and Quality. The results are One-of-a-Kind Originals that are noticed and enjoyed forever.

Planning is made easy from our Large Selection of Solid Wood, Laminates, Hardware, Stains and Finishes.

Bring us your Ideas or Have Us Design and Build a Piece for you at Price Points that make it Affordable.

Telephone For An Appointment
764-3885
Or Visit Our Showroom
Planecraft Ltd.
55 West Beaver Creek, Unit 17
Richmond Hill (Hwy. 7 & Leslie)



EDWARDS TV ANTENNA
INSTALLATION, REPAIR & REMOVAL
CALL ANYTIME
477-1974

BURGESS CONTRACTING RENOVATIONS
Residential - Commercial
BATHROOM, BASEMENT, KITCHEN
CARPENTRY, DRYWALL, TAPING,
CERAMIC TILE, SPRAY CEILINGS.
FREE ESTIMATES
JAN 294-6440 - 471-7599

COXWORTH CONSTRUCTION
Custom Built Homes
Additions - Renovations - etc.
KEVIN
640-6516
(serving Markham, Stouffville & surrounding area)

FOR BETTER DIAMONDS
Barthau WATCH CLOCK JEWELLERS
QUALITY REPAIRS ON PREMISES
45 YEARS EXPERIENCE
78 MAIN ST. N. MARKHAM
294-4844
MARKHAM'S QUALITY JEWELLER

WALSH PAINTING
Interior/Exterior
Good rates, experienced, Free estimates.
NO JOB TO LARGE OR TOO SMALL
CALL 294-2504

AVONE DRYWALL & ACOUSTICS
Residential & Commercial & Renovations
Free estimates
16 years experience
Steve Johnson 294-5734

BARKER ROOFING & SIDING LTD.
640-4966

Alcan Building Products

REPAIRS - RE-ROOFING SIDING & SOFFITS
Free Estimates
Serving The Community Since 1955

SIMPSON & OAG CONSTRUCTION
Quality Carpentry & Responsible Contracting
-Additions, Sunrooms
-Kitchens, Spas & Baths
-Upgrades to older homes
Free consultations — References
852-6784 655-4930

MURRAY BROWN
Designers & Builders
Custom Woodworking & Cabinetry
887-5576
Unionville

James T. Reppie Inc.
Excavating
640-2143

Custom made **WEDDING VEILS** at reasonable prices
HATS, HALOS OR UNIQUE HEADPIECES
For more information - please call 471-8710

MAYNARD CABINETS
Custom Furnishings
Wall Units, Desks, etc.
FRED
640-3441

SUPERSTUDENT
Property Services
PROFESSIONAL WEEKLY LAWN MAINTENANCE
• Fertilizing • Aerating • Planting
Call today for a free estimate
471-6482

JOE MONCADA ELECTRIC
• Residential Wiring
• 100A-200A Services
• Electric heating
• Rewiring of older homes
• New construction, additions & renovations
R.R. 2, Stouffville **640-2996**

HANDYMAN
All kinds
• PLUMBING • CARPENTRY
• ELECTRICAL • ETC.
• BASEMENT FINISHING
• HOME RENOVATIONS
Call: AL 475-7499

MARKHAM PLUMBING
Renovations.
New construction.
Reasonable rates
Phone 565-2915

GUARANTEED QUALITY

BALANCE BOOKKEEPING SERVICES
Accounting and bookkeeping for small businesses.
640-2696

TNT GLASS & WINDOWS
• Window Service
• Storm Doors
• Mirror Work
• Porch Enclosures
• Tub & Shower Doors
QUALITY WORK AT REASONABLE PRICES
"NO JOB TOO SMALL"
TONY 642-0192

DOUG ELLIOTT & SON
Painting and Decorating
Paper Hanging a Specialty
37 years experience
281-9667 or 722-3694

BILL'S PAINTING
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
SERVING MARKHAM YEAR ROUND
BILL FRECHETTE
294-5415 (evgs.)

WOOD FENCES POSTS SET AYLWINS
286-3672

LEGAL PLUS WORD PROCESSING SERVICE
Private instruction on Word Perfect, freelance, secretarial services, resumes, reports, mailings, overflow.
471-6766

edmunds
ROOFING BY AND COMPANY LIMITED
Choice of North York Homecare Assoc. Because
"We Dare to Care" SINCE 1947
447-3961

KAVANAGH ROOFING
Residential Roofing & Repair
MIKE KAVANAGH
283-6452

BUILDING TRENDS
Decorating and Improvements
• drywall • painting
• taping • papering
• stucco • flooring
for a free estimate, call
477-0554 or 683-8775

HANDYMAN
All Home Repairs & Renovations
Lawn cutting, fence building, decks, rec. rooms, kitchens, retiling, door replacement, truck & trailer for moving, Taping, drywall and cabinets-built.
CALL NOW 471-4552

CONCRETE WORK of ALL TYPES
Markham area
Waterproofing and Unistone
R. Pagnello
ESTABLISHED SINCE 1945
294-4670

TO ADVERTISE CALL
294-2200
495-9440
640-2100