

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Hairy Woodpecker with Broken Upper Mandible: While banding birds at my feeder on December 28, 1975, I trapped a female Hairy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos villosus*). Approximately half of the upper mandible was missing; the stub had healed over.

After releasing the bird, I watched it come in and feed at one of its favorite spots, a log feeder. The feeder hangs upside down with the mixed suet and peanut butter approachable only from the underside of the log. The bird hangs upside down, and drills the food loose with the unbroken mandible. The remaining bit of upper mandible still functions so that the bird can open its mouth and let bits of food fall in. It also uses its tongue to probe for loose pieces.

If forced from this favorite feeder by a Starling or another woodpecker, the bird will feed on suet hanging in a bag, although considerable food is wasted as it falls to the ground. I have also seen this same bird probing under the loose bark of a tree near the feeders.



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