

# Forest life



André Simon

## The carpenter

I am a small bird dressed in a brown-green suit apt to live and work in forests. My feet are suitable to climb trees, and my stiff tail allows me to remain on tree-trunks. During the day my hard beak chisels tree trunks and carves out rooms for future residents. I work diligently the whole day long. According to orders, I am able to carve out small or big rooms. These cozy rooms, suitable for living and breeding are made exclusive for fellow birds. Normally nests are not safe during rainy days. However, in the rooms carved by myself, the birds are protected from storms or heavy rains. We carpenters live without any danger, neither from rapacious birds, nor from turbulent weather. The rooms made by me compared to conventional nests are more comfortable.

*Dear fellow birds, if you prefer to live in the rooms protected from heavy rains or tempests, or from rapacious birds, please contact me. I carry out my work consciously and execute all rooms competently, as does every specialized craftsman.*

Nowadays, I can offer rooms with an optional heating system, which is very important in the breed-

ing season. In heated rooms the hatching period is shortened, and the mother-bird has more free time for herself.

My ancestors lived in a healthy forest. The trees had hardwood trunks and green leaves. In these former times, for the carpenters it was quite difficult to chisel the solid hardwood trunks. Nowadays, if you look at the trees, you will notice only sick and softwood trees.

Many trees have their trunks already dried out. High up there are only some lonesome leaves. Those trees are victims of air pollution. Under their thin barks lie soft wooden fibres. It is easy for me to carve these sick trees. Thanks to air pollution and acid rain, these sick trees have a fungus spongy inner layer. The fungi are like unseen radiators which produce heat and warm up the inside of the tree trunks very quickly.

*I am so grateful to the whole of mankind as they have generated air pollution, causing global warming and creating sick and softwood forests. These soft sick trees are very easy to carve. Therefore, I am able to build for my fellows-birds luxury rooms with or without heating systems. My name is Woodpecker.*

## Sleepy head

I am a small singing bird. Unlike other birds, my singing can be heard only at night. During the day, I sleep on a tree branch, hidden between leaves. Day after day of sleepless nights, I have difficulty to get to sleep at sunrise. Each dawn birds start to sing with others joining in chorus and they sing all day long. Therefore, I asked my friend Owl for an explanation why so! «My dear Owl, you are destined to be silent the whole night long. Why should I sing only during the night, and be tired and sleepy during the day?» «Dear Nightingale, you are well known as an excellent songster honoured by all birds. One of the most enchanting experience for me is; to listen to your singing. Especially, on warm summer nights, your singing together with your family is marvellous.

In the night silence reigns, therefore your tunes are heard over great distances. Also singing at night does not interfere with feeding times. During the night, birds are unable to detect insects, which are their main food.

I am a permanent resident of a great forest. All birds are seasonal dwellers. Once the rains and snow-times arrive, all small birds fly far away. First to depart are the nightingales. When the flowers bloom again, the birds return to breed in the forests. The first arrivals are the nightingales. They are able to advertise the importance of territory and later mate finding. This may be important for a bird that is quite choosy about its place of living, mating and breeding.

*On their return during the night, the birds orientate themselves following your clear and loud tunes. Your nightly songs are a guiding light for new friends. The incoming birds are grateful for your readiness to help them. You are an «acoustic lighthouse» for your new arrivals. Your singing makes them happy, and increases your happiness, too. In this way, you will forget your own concerns and your sleepiness.*

Korrespondenz:  
Dr. med. André Simon  
Dörflistrasse 14  
CH-8057 Zürich  
andre.simon@hin.ch