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Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers feeding at Red-cockaded Woodpecker resin wells.—Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*) excavate rows of holes into the cambium of various tree species and feed on the exuded sap (Kilham 1956, Tate 1973). Several other species including Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), and Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) have been observed feeding at sapsucker excavations (e.g., Foster and Tate 1966; Kilham 1953, 1958, 1983; Southwick and Southwick 1980). We have observed typical sapsucker feeding excavations in longleaf (*Pinus palustris*), loblolly (*P. taeda*), and shortleaf (*P. echinata*) pines near Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavity trees. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) consistently excavate resin wells adjacent to their roost and nest cavities (Ligon 1970, Dennis 1971). The resin exuded from these wells is an effective barrier against predation by rat snakes of the genus *Elaphe* (Rudolph et al. 1990). To our knowledge there are no published observations of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers or other avian species feeding on the exudates of these resin wells. However, we have observed Red-cockaded Woodpeckers removing drops of resin from cavity entrances and their immediate vicinity on numerous occasions. Resin drops were either released with a rapid flick of the head or wiped on bark surfaces, often on an adjacent tree.

Twice we have observed interactions between resident Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers that focused on the Red-cockaded Woodpecker roost cavity and the associated resin wells. At 10:15 EST on 27 October 89, a male sapsucker landed at the entrance of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker's roost cavity in a longleaf pine. The

male Red-cockaded Woodpecker flew from an adjacent tree and displaced the sapsucker. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker then entered the roost cavity and remained for 8 min. During this period the sapsucker returned to the cavity tree twice and fed at the resin wells 0.5–3.0 m from the cavity entrance. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker intently watched the sapsucker during this period. Approximately 2 min after the sapsucker left the cavity tree and flew approximately 50 m to another tree, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker emerged and began foraging on an adjacent pine. The sapsucker returned to the cavity tree 3 min later and resumed feeding at the resin wells. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker immediately returned and entered the roost cavity. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker remained in the cavity approximately 2 min before emerging and aggressively chasing the sapsucker from the area.

At 09:20 on 29 January 90 a male Red-cockaded Woodpecker returned to his roost tree in a loblolly pine to find a sapsucker (sex unknown) feeding at the resin wells. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker vocalized briefly and chased the sapsucker from the area.

Roost cavities are a critical resource for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (Copeyon et al., unpubl. data), and as such are defended vigorously. On numerous other occasions during our observations of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, we have observed them aggressively chasing Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers from the vicinity of Red-cockaded Woodpecker cavity trees. Occasionally, the sapsuckers would return after several minutes only to be repeatedly chased by Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

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