

## Questions 40-50

Woodpeckers also use their powerful beaks to excavate nest holes in tree trunks, drilling first of all a neat horizontal hole, then chiseling downward for a foot or so and there cutting out a chamber. They frequently choose dead trees, no doubt because the rotting wood is softer to work than that of living trees. Such trees also are usually infected by bark beetles, which provide a rich food supply conveniently near at hand.

The drumming noise made by the rapid blows of a woodpecker's beak on a tree trunk is one of the most characteristic sounds of the forest. The birds do not produce it solely when they are feeding or excavating a nest. They beat tattoos on echoing timber for the same reason that other birds sing, to declare possession of a territory and to attract a mate. Each species has its own length of drumroll with its own characteristic interval between one burst and the next.

Different species of the woodpecker family specialize in different foods.

The green woodpecker, as well as taking bark-boring beetles, often descends to the ground to forage for ants. The wryneck is even more dependent upon ants. It is not primarily a climber at all and lacks the stiff propping tail of other woodpeckers, but it does have the usual long sticky tongue, which it flicks into a nest of ants to bring out 150 of them at a time. The acorn woodpecker exploits its wood-boring skills by drilling neat holes in tree trunks, the diameter of which exactly accommodates acorns. It will cover a favored tree with several hundred such holes and store several acorns in each of them, so accumulating a massive ladder for the winter. An even more specialized group within the family, the sapsuckers, bore holes in tree trunks for a quite different purpose. They choose living trees of species that produce liberal flows of sap and drill numerous small, squarish holes in them. The liquid that trickles out attracts insects that the sapsucker collects and then mixes with the sap to produce a little sweetmeat.

40. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) The sounds made by different species of birds
- (B) The characteristics of one kind of bird
- (C) The importance of insects as a food source for birds
- (D) The damage done to trees by one species of birds

41. The word "excavate" in line 1 is closest in meaning to

- (A) dig
- (B) protect
- (C) clean
- (D) investigate

42. The word "that" in line 4 refers to

- (A) hole
- (B) chamber
- (C) wood
- (D) supply

44. The word "interval" in line 12 is closest in meaning to

- (A) note
- (B) pause
- (C) call
- (D) tapping

45. The words "as well as" in line 14 are closest in meaning to

- (A) besides
- (B) easily
- (C) after
- (D) instead of

46. According to the passage, the wryneck differs from other woodpeckers in that it does NOT

- (A) have a long tongue
- (B) make any noise
- (C) build its own nest
- (D) have a rigid tail

47. The word "which" in line 19 refers to

- (A) acorns
- (B) holes
- (C) tree trunks
- (D) skills

48. The word "massive" in line 21 is closest in meaning to

- (A) secret
- (B) potential
- (C) huge
- (D) fresh