

CHIPMUNKS AND SQUIRRELS EATING BEETLE LARVAE AT THE PAS, MANITOBA

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Recently Phil Reader of Reader's Lake mentioned to me that both chipmunks and squirrels will eat beetle larvae.

Phil Reader runs a small home saw mill, cutting timber sized trees into boards.

Both squirrels and chipmunks will run along the boards, just cut, exposing larvae. They extract them and eat them immediately. They become so intent at this that they disregard the roar of the saw, the flying sawdust and the presence of people! Some almost touch the whirring saw blade in their expectancy of the tasty morsels! Evidently, they have a

need for protein in their diets.

The larva found in the spruce timber is that of the "large horned beetle," *Monochamus notatus*. The adult is on the wing in July. Various other larvae occur of the family Buprestidae. The largest larvae are however of *Monochamus*. These are particularly relished. These larvae are of different sizes and ages. The generations overlap producing larvae of different sizes. All are eaten rapidly and without discrimination! Both the chipmunks and squirrels come running when they hear the machinery start up — surely a Pavlovian response!



Least Chipmunk.

R. E. Gehlert