
MYSTERY PHOTO

JUNE 2008 MYSTERY PHOTO



This little bird was found ‘jammed’ into a tree hole at dusk on May 6 and was still there at 10:30 p.m. when this picture was taken. It was gone at 6:05 a.m. the next morning. What kind of bird is it and what is it doing?

ANSWER TO THE MARCH 2008 MYSTERY PHOTO



How did the beavers chew the trunk of a tree at a height of about 6 feet above the ground? One reader suggested that the higher chewing was made when the water level was high, and the lower cuts when it was low. Lucille Bradatsch who took the photographs went back to the scene of the chewing three weeks later and took the photograph shown above. Based on the position of the tree at that time, Lucille wrote, “Though I don’t know much about the habits of beavers, I can imagine the following scenario. The trunk of the tree seemed very healthy

and likely had a heavy crown with weighty branches. The beavers chewed at the base until the weight of the crown, possibly aided by a gust of wind, caused it to lean and to fall. The beavers then

chewed on the trunk as it lay on the ground and one cut off the top before the base of the tree was cut through. Relieved of the weight, the trunk righted itself and was ignored until the beavers disposed of the severed branches. Later they returned and cleaned up the site. Only the old stumps and the new one remained the last time I checked.”

The editors would like to thank Lucille for providing the beaver chewing photos and story.