

ago I saw a very large one in the top of a black walnut, where it had also taken refuge from the dogs. While such cases may be uncommon, no doubt there are many other observers who have seen woodchucks climb trees.—CLEVELAND P. HICKMAN, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va.*

MORE TREE-CLIMBING WOODCHUCKS

The note in the November Journal of Mammalogy on a Tree-Climbing Wood-Chuck by Mr. Harold St. John recalls an experience of the past summer. I was engaged in listing the birds of the new Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus County, New York, when one day, July 16, 1921, I came upon a woodchuck (*Marmota monax preblorum*) about ten feet up in a dogwood tree. I had not seen the animal climb there, and do not know whether it climbed there because of my approach or was already there when I approached. The tree was about six inches in diameter, and leaned somewhat to the south which was the downhill side. This tree was in the midst of a large sized patch of woodland, and a considerable distance from any open country. I tossed a few sticks at the animal expecting it to jump or run down the tree, but while it seemed frightened, it seemed also unwilling to leave the tree.

After this experience I asked others who lived in that vicinity the question "Have you ever seen a woodchuck climb a tree?" Almost invariably I got the answer "Yes," with a statement that they often did it to escape enemies. Returning to my home in southern Connecticut I tried the question on people in that vicinity with the answer that they had never heard of such a thing, most of them adding that woodchucks seldom were found near trees. From this experience I concluded that the tree-climbing habit in woodchucks is something that is decidedly local, belonging chiefly to animals that live in wooded regions, rather than to those that live in open country.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Fairfield, Conn.*

THE TREE-CLIMBING HABITS OF WOODCHUCKS

In the Journal of Mammalogy for November, 1921, there is a photograph and an excellent description of a "Tree-Climbing Woodchuck." I did not know that it was considered unusual for woodchucks to climb trees, but some of my friends think it is.

As a boy and young man, I lived in the hilly region of southwestern Pennsylvania where woodchucks were very common, often becoming a nuisance. I now recall five instances of woodchucks climbing trees. They were all put up by dogs and I observed them in every case. The first live woodchuck that I ever saw was one that a big dog ran up a butternut tree that grew along the border of a woods. The chuck was not full grown, but it went to a height of about 15 feet. My oldest brother climbed the tree and shook it down. A few years later, I was one day walking with my father through a woods containing almost a pure stand of white oak trees. Our dog got between a woodchuck and its burrow and chased it up one of the trees. This oak was nearly two feet in diameter with no branches for nearly 30 feet. The chuck continued to the first stopping place, a large lateral branch or open fork. My father threw two or three stones at it, but failed to hit it. The animal kept looking down at the barking dog and as it did so, it began to shake and wobble and finally tumbled to the ground. This would indicate, to me, that woodchucks are not familiar with high climbing. This one