

SOME CLUES FOR TWIG DETECTIVES

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Massachusetts Audubon Society
South Lincoln, Massachusetts

TREES WITH OPPOSITE BRANCHING

BUDS 1. Smooth buds; crescent-shaped leaf scars with 3 bundle scars



SUGAR MAPLE

brown buds on brown twigs



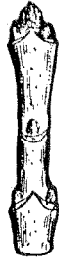
NORWAY MAPLE

green and red buds; keeled scales



RED MAPLE
red buds; no fetid odor

SILVER MAPLE
red buds; fetid odor when crushed



BOX ELDER

buds whitish, downy; purple twigs with bloom that rubs off



THE ASHES

bundle scars forming crescent

3. Large terminal bud



HORSE CHESTNUT

buds sticky

4. Onion-shaped flower bud



FLOWERING DOGWOOD

5. Often 3 buds at a node



CATALPA

TREES WITH ALTERNATE BRANCHING

BUDS 1. Single scale



WILLOW

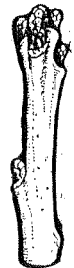
hood-like scale

2. Clustered terminal buds



BLACK OAK GROUP

sharp-pointed buds



WHITE OAK GROUP

blunt buds

3. Large end bud with loose dark outer scales



SHAGBARK HICKORY

brownish twigs with light-colored lenticels

4. Flattened, yellowish buds



BITTERNUT HICKORY

granular, mustard-yellow buds



WITCH-HAZEL

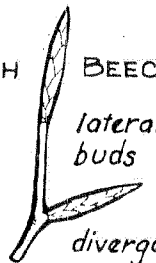
tawny, stalked, naked buds

5. Long, narrow buds



SHADBUSH

scales fringed with hairs



BEECH

lateral buds

divergent

TWIGS 1. Thick twig, thick pith



TREE OF HEAVEN



STAGHORN SUMAC

leaf scar almost encircles bud

2. Line encircling twig at each node



TULIP

"duck-bill" terminal bud



SYCAMORE

leaf scar encircles bud

3. Knob-like twigs



GINKGO

twigs peeling in silky fibres

4. Green twigs



SASSAFRAS

only one bundle scar

CATKINS in winter



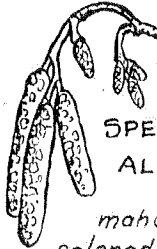
GRAY BIRCH

single catkin at end of twig



YELLOW BIRCH
dark, peeling bark.

WHITE BIRCH
white, peeling bark



SPECKLED ALDER
mahogany-colored catkins

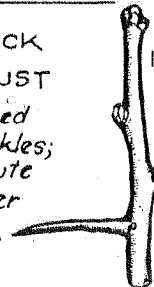
THORNS



HONEY LOCUST
minute winter buds; zig-zag twig



BLACK LOCUST
paired prickles; minute winter buds



HAWTHORN
round, red buds

BUNDLE-SCAR U-shaped; chambered pith



BLACK WALNUT
dull gray, with blunt terminal bud



BUTTERNUT
yellow-brown with elongated terminal bud