

The Mountain Chickadee (*P. g. gambeli*) has a variation to the call. During the spring of 1933 I spent two days in the Dearborn Mountains, Montana, and had the opportunity of hearing and recording its songs. In the cottonwoods and low bushes growing along the river bottom of the Dearborn River several flocks of Black-capped Chickadees were observed. I recorded their "phoebe" song with the stop watch and pitch pipe and found it identical with the calls heard elsewhere. High up on the hills in a scattering growth of pine, I found the Mountain Chickadees. All seemed to be whistling their peculiar variation of "phoebe." Both the pitch of the song and the quality of the voice are different from those of the Black-cap. It had been comparatively easy to whistle the notes of the Black-cap, but I found the Mountain Chickadee was three full steps higher, making it necessary to use a tooth whistle in imitating. The voice has a harsh rasping quality unlike the clear whistle of other Chickadees. The notes are all given on the same pitch, the first note so short it appears as a grace note, followed by the two longer notes. The birds answered my calling, but I noticed a lack of the inquisitiveness characteristic of the Black-caps.

While descending from the hills, I found a flock of Black-caps about half way up the hill side in the bushes of a small canyon. A member of this flock confirmed Saunders' findings that birds learn new songs by imitation,¹ for this bird was adding part of the Mountain Chickadee's notes to his own. The pitch and voice were those of the Black-cap but the first part of the call was identical to the Mountain Chickadee. Without a doubt this flock of birds often associated with the Mountain Chickadees and in so doing this bird imitated their call, adding his own notes to the end.—ELLSWORTH D. LUMLEY, *Great Falls High School, Great Falls, Mont.*

A Melanistic Black-capped Chickadee.—While walking near Ithaca, New York, on October 29, 1933, I noted that one individual of a fair-sized flock of Chickadees (*Parus a. atricapillus*), had a totally black head. The following day I returned and collected the bird, which proved to be a male in good condition. The specimen was made into a skin (Cornell University Museum No. 4955).

Description: Entire head, including the cheeks, black, less glossy apparently than on the crown of normally colored individuals, this black extending onto the upper back and breast considerably farther than in normal specimens, invading even the median region of the belly; rest of plumage dark throughout: the back a little darker than normal, the belly and flanks much darker and washed with brown, the wing-coverts, primaries, secondaries, and rectrices edged with gray rather than whitish. The measurements are those of an average adult male.

So far as I could determine the behavior and call notes of the melanistic individual were normal, and all other birds of the flock appeared to be normal in coloration. I have found but one other record for melanism in the Paridae; two melanistic individuals of the Coal-titmouse, *Parus ater*, were observed in a flock in England (British Birds, I, p. 384).—JAMES T. TANNER, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

¹ But cf. Allen *antea* bottom of p. 184, and others. [Ed.]