

river, and as many Black and Turkey Vultures lined the banks to secure such morsels of food as were washed ashore. The grackles and crows fed over the turbulent water, picking up morsels of food with the skill and dexterity of the typical water birds. The feet and even the breast feathers of many of the crows and grackles were seen to touch the surface of the water momentarily as the birds hovered over this (for them) uncharacteristic feeding place.—CLARENCE COTTAM, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois.

**Winter insect food of chickadees.**—It was recently my good fortune to add to the records of the former Biological Survey the nymphs of two species of insects which are devoured in countless numbers each winter. While making studies in forest ornithology I often pass through open spaces thickly overgrown by sumac of several species. In these openings I had noted Black-capped Chickadees (*Penthestes a. atricapillus*) and several other birds feeding on sumac berries and insect life found within the fruit clusters. But on two species of sumac, *Rhus glabra* (smooth sumac) and *Rhus copallina* (dwarf sumac), I noted that chickadees spent much time picking minute objects from the bark of the stems at many points between the ground and the seed clusters. Examining the birds with close-up glasses, they could be seen eating black specks from *R. glabra* and less conspicuous brown specks from *R. copallina*. With a hand lens it was plain that the two types of scale-like organisms must be different species, as the black ones were differently sculptured and were fringed by a larger number of marginal setae than the brown ones, and that each was found only on its particular species of sumac. I shaved off thin slices of bark with the nymphs attached and sent them to Dr. Muesebeck, in charge of insect identification of the U. S. Dept. Agriculture, and he passed them to Dr. Oman who recognized them as the winter stage of "jumping plant lice," family Psyllidae. The black nymph was that of *Calophya flava*; the smaller brown one, that of *C. nigripennis*, these being the only species of *Calophya* known to occur in the eastern United States.

In May, I was able to watch the very different and active adult insects emerge from their respective, sedentary nymphal forms which, however, began to crawl around a little before this metamorphosis. Then, indeed, they took on a very different form. The wings of *nigripennis* were very pale at first, soon turning black, while those of *flava* remained yellowish.

Writing of the matter to Dr. Phoebe Knappen, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, she kindly added these species to the list of insects eaten by chickadees, as they did not appear in the records. Dr. Knappen informed me, however, that in 1927, T. T. Odell published a bulletin in Geneva, N. Y., on "The Food Habits of Orchard Birds with Special Reference to the Pear Psylla." As a result of his studies, Odell found that the Black-capped Chickadee is the most important single bird enemy of Psyllidae in that region.

My own observations show that in winters in which the *Calophyae*, which we may here call sumac psyllids, are very abundant, the chickadees consume enormous numbers of the nymphs of the two species.—RALPH E. DANFORTH, Noank, Conn.

**Migrant Gray-cheeked Thrushes in song.**—During the exceptionally rainy spring of 1943 when bird song seemed somewhat scarce, I was fortunate twice in hearing the song of the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Hylocichla minima*), a bird which I have always hesitated to list from sight alone. On the first occasion, about eight in the evening of May 11, I was attracted to the bird by its call which was not