

rubbing action was such that the bird not infrequently lost its balance and fell to its side, but this did not inhibit the continuity of the rubbing which continued until all of the burning tobacco had been abraded from the cigarette's tip. When this had been accomplished the act terminated. The entire performance, which was repeated many times, seldom lasted over 10 or 12 seconds and was executed with a rapidity which made observation difficult.—F. W. MILLER, *Dallas Museum of Natural History, Dallas, Texas.*

**Display of Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus.***—A Black-capped Chickadee entered a government sparrow trap at my banding station in Madison, Wis., about 4:45 p. m. on April 25, 1951. It was a color-banded bird, originally ringed in October, 1950. As I remained near the trap verifying the color combination, another chickadee began scolding about 12 feet away. Seeing that the latter bird was also color-banded, I began "squeaking" in an effort to bring it close enough to see the color-bands. It proved to be a bird first banded in September, 1949. For several minutes it remained within 6 to 12 feet of me, scolding intermittently, and going through the following display. With feathers puffed out and tail spread, both wings were raised high over the head and then lowered but kept extended away from the body. This was slowly repeated in a circular motion at the rate of about one revolution per second; at the same time the bird tipped forward on the branch as though losing its balance. When almost upside down, with wings still moving in a circular motion, it would fly to another nearby branch and repeat the performance. Upon liberating the trapped bird, the one displaying immediately returned to normal size and posture, gave a 'chick-a-dee-dee' call, and joined the bird that had just been released. The following day the same two birds were seen feeding together and giving the low, soft notes associated with a pair.

Both the wing-waving and tipping behavior have been described among chickadees by Odum and E. R. Pettingill. Apparently, however, the display consisted only of wing-waving, or only of tipping, not of both simultaneously. In one instance, a young Black-capped Chickadee was captured and the parents, scolding, flew toward the intruder; they raised both wings over the back and flapped them slowly back and forth, with the head held straight out and moved slowly from side to side (Odum, *Auk*, 54 (4): 531). In another case, the display was provoked by a red squirrel approaching the nest of an Acadian Chickadee, *Parus hudsonicus*. One of the adults tipped over backward on a branch until it was upside down with "wings fluttering helplessly"; it then flew to another branch and appeared to fall over sidewise (E. R. Pettingill, *Bird-Lore*, 39 (4): 280).—MARGARET B. HICKEY, *13A Eagle Heights, Madison 5, Wisconsin.*

**Starlings, *Sturnus vulgaris*, Catching Insects on the Wing.**—Observations made chiefly in Baltimore from 1936 through 1950 show it to be a fairly common thing for the Starling to hawk insects by more or less prolonged, circuitous flights in something the manner of swifts or swallows. This agrees with Tucker's findings in Europe (*Auk*, 67: 243, 1950).

My notebooks for the years 1936 to 1950 contain 43 observations of such hawking, made on 37 days; the dates range from March 14 to November 18; most fall between August 21 and October 20. I have 29 observations made on 27 days of Starlings hawking out from trees or roofs and returning to their perches with single insects, in the flycatcher manner that Hodges (*Auk*, 67: 242-243, 1950) regards as the more common of the two; these dates range from March 10 to November 23. On 11 days, both methods of feeding were being used simultaneously by different members of the same Starling flocks.