

sometimes apparently mimicking other birds, and singing at night (Bent, *loc. cit.*). Its other vocalizations show no similarities to warblers (Chapman, *The Warblers of North America*, 267, 1907). A courtship display is also different, chiefly consisting of fluffing the neck and swaying from side to side (Townsend, *Mem. Nut. Orn. Club*, 5: 1-196, 1920). It also lacks a distraction display (Ficken and Ficken, *Living Bird*, 1: 103-122, 1962). The Chat holds food with its foot (Neal Smith, pers. comm.), a characteristic of some other passerines, but of no known warblers.

However, the Chat does have a flight song, as do some warblers. It scratches the head directly, a characteristic known for only some warblers, mimids, timaliids, and *Chamaea fasciata*, so far as is known among the passerines (Wickler, *Zeitschr. f. Tierpsychol.*, 18: 320-342, 1961).

Thus, the available and seemingly conservative biochemical, morphological, and behavioral evidence suggests that the Chat is not a parulid, but that its true relationships remain obscure.—MILLCENT S. FICKEN and ROBERT W. FICKEN, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

**On Dew Bathing and Drought in Passerines.**—Dew bathing is a rarely observed phenomenon, and only few instances regarding this behavior have been recorded. Berger (*Bird Study*, 1961) mentions dew bathing in captive Traill's Flycatchers (*Empidonax traillii*) and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (*E. flaviventris*), which flew through wet grass, and Van Tyne (in Bent, *U.S. Natl. Bull.*, 203) reports a case in the Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*). He adds that water is often not available in any other form for miles around. The observation here presented was made at Vancouver, British Columbia (in the Puget Sound biotic area), on 26 August 1961, at 07:00, along the edge of a mixed stand of secondary growth. The summer of 1961 was a dry one in British Columbia, with only a little over a centimeter of rain recorded in 50 days preceding the day of observation. It is suggested that the observed behavior was in response to this drought. While walking along a path my attention was drawn to a rustling noise made by some birds that were fluttering among the leaves of a three-meter-high Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*). From their bedraggled appearance it seemed as if the birds had taken a bath and were now preening themselves. At first I thought that there would be a pool or ditch running along the path I walked on, but soon it became apparent that the birds were washing themselves with the dew, which was still on the leaves of the above-mentioned maple. The birds would flutter among the leaves, bumping into several of them before coming to rest. This was repeated several times by each bird. One Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) was sitting on a leaf and touching it with its breast, while soaking up the moisture. This bird went through the same motions as when bathing in a pool. The following birds were taking this dew bath: 15 Black-capped Chickadees, 7 Orange-crowned Warblers (*Vermivora celata*), 1 Black-throated-Grey Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*), 1 Pileolated Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*), and 1 Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). I also noted that a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus satrapa*) and a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) had had their baths already. When finished with bathing, the birds would ruffle their feathers, just as after a normal bath.—NICOLAAS A. M. VERBEEK, *Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia.*