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**Tail flashing display in the Whip-poor-will.**—On 25 April 1954 I was walking at dusk with a companion along a dirt road on the wooded banks of the Mohican River near Spellacy, Ashland County, Ohio. Whip-poor-wills (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) were calling and suddenly we came upon one sitting in the road in front of us. We paused within 20 feet to watch it. In about a minute the bird ascended more or less vertically on beating wings to a height of nearly a meter above the road, hovered there momentarily, and then began a display that evidently has not been reported in the literature. While it still hovered silently, the tail feathers appeared to hang loosely suspended in a vertical position. In a few seconds they were suddenly spread for a fraction of a second and fell back in a folded position. This rapid opening and closing of the tail revealed the white spot on the outer rectrices, which showed it to be a male, and produced an instantaneous white "flash" in the gathering dusk. The Whip-poor-will continued to hover and repeated the performance five or six times in perhaps 15 seconds. Welty (1963, *The life of birds*, Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Co.) published an excellent photograph of identical hovering behavior in the European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*). The function of this display has been variously interpreted as courtship, aerodynamic stabilization, or attracting or flushing insect prey.—JAMES A. BRUCE, *4144 Suitland Road, Apartment 102, Suitland, Maryland 20023*. Accepted 2 Aug. 1972.

**Gopher snake predation on the Common Bushtit.**—At 14:45 on 19 April 1972 we watched a gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), enter the nest of a pair of Common Bushtits (*Psaltriparus minimus*) 2.6 m from the ground in a 5-m high cypress tree on the University of California, Santa Barbara campus. Adult bushtits near the nest gave alarm notes, but did not attack the snake. By 15:25 the snake was completely inside the nest; its weight stretched the supporting strands and partially dislodged it. Removing the nest from the tree and carefully opening a longitudinal