

**White-rumped Sandpiper in Indiana.**—The status of the White-rumped Sandpiper (*Erolia fuscicollis*) in Indiana has not been fully determined. Until comparatively recent years, little was known of the species in this state. Butler (1897. "Birds of Indiana," *Indiana Dept. Geol. Nat. Resources Ann. Rept.* 22:1173) knew of no record but carried the species on the hypothetical list.

Frederick M. Baumgartner first added the species to the state list with his observation of six birds in Marion County, April 10, 1926 (1931. *Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.*, 402:298). Two records were obtained in Allen County in 1934, as reported by Frank Johnson (1938. *Yearbook Indiana Aud. Soc.*, p. 65). Harry M. Smith observed it in Lake County in 1936 (1936. "Notes on the birds of the Calumet and Dune Regions," mimeographed paper, p. 12). Donald H. Boyd observed it in Porter County in 1942. I can find no records for the years 1943 to 1948, inclusive.

From 1949 to 1952, inclusive, records have multiplied to such an extent that the White-rumped Sandpiper now appears to be a regular migrant in Indiana in both spring and fall. I have 28 records for that period, from various observers, and seven counties are represented. It has appeared most often in Lake County (13 reports), Marion County (7 reports), and Porter County (5 reports). All of the Lake County records have been obtained from Wolf Lake, which lies on the border of Illinois and Indiana. It has been found with the same regularity across the line in Illinois, as reported to me by T. J. Nork, Albert Campbell, Amy Baldwin, and others.

I took a female at Wolf Lake on July 20, 1950, which is apparently the first specimen for the state. It was one of two White-rumped Sandpipers observed that day and was feeding with a flock of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*) along a sandy strip of shoreline. The other was with a group of Least Sandpipers (*Erolia minutilla*) in the same type of habitat. This specimen has been deposited in the Purdue University Wildlife Laboratory Collection, Lafayette, Indiana.

Val Nolan, Jr., has made some interesting observations on the White-rumped Sandpiper (1951. *Indiana Aud. Quarterly*, 29(2):21-22), from which I quote: "On September 8, [1950] at the Indianapolis Sewage Disposal Plant in Marion County, my attention was attracted to ten shore birds dropping from high in the air to one of the settling pits. They flew low over the area several times and finally lit on a pit beside me. Four were White-rumped, six Semipalmated Sandpipers. After resting no longer than thirty seconds the flock arose abruptly, mounted quite high, and flew straight away. The birds seemed to be migrating and to have been attracted for a moment by the pits. This observation was made at 9 a.m.; it had been raining heavily until a few moments before the birds appeared. Many other small shore birds were present on the pits."

Nolan obtained further information on September 14, 1950. Regarding this instance, he (*loc. cit.*) wrote, "I came suddenly upon and frightened away a mixed flock of small shore birds which included several White-rumps. About thirty minutes later I found what was probably the same flock, consisting of five White-rumped, five Semipalmated, and two Least Sandpipers. The birds of the species here under discussion were stepping about on the half-submerged foundation of a building. Their manner of feeding in this particular made them resemble Spotted Sandpipers [*Actitis macularia*]. Occasionally a bird would fly from stone to stone. They were apparently not disturbed by my presence, and I left them still feeding."

James B. Cope and I saw a lone White-rumped Sandpiper in a flock of 19 Semipalmated Sandpipers on a small pond in LaPorte County, June 3, 1951. We were able to study the bird for several minutes as the flock fed along a soft muddy area. It appeared

to feed at the edge of the flock or slightly away from the group, although it flew amidst the group when flushed.

Two White-rumped Sandpipers observed on May 30, 1952, by Charles M. Kirkpatrick, Marvin and Hubert Davis, Richard Phillips, and the writer, were feeding in a rain pool on a cinder flat. Their companions were Semipalmated Sandpipers and Red-backed Sandpipers (*Erolia alpina*). These birds called occasionally while wading about and while making short flights across the pool; the bat-like note was given perhaps six times.

The White-rumped Sandpiper is probably more common in Indiana than the foregoing records indicate. Its habit of accompanying similar, small shore birds in migration may have resulted in its being overlooked in some cases. From present records, it has been observed as early as April 10 (1926), seven times in May, five in June, three in July, six in August, five in September, and last noted October 20 (1951). Each flock of "peeps" should be critically examined for White-rumps. It has been found in small numbers, usually from one to six, but Boyd recorded 24 on one occasion.—RUSSELL E. MUMFORD, *Route 1, Cortland, Indiana, November 19, 1951.*

**"Cataleptic" behavior in the Hudsonian Chickadee.**—On the morning of April 13, 1951, near College, Alaska, I saw a group of six Hudsonian Chickadees (*Parus hudsonicus*) in a mixed stand of spruce and birch. I shot three of these chickadees for specimens. One of the birds fell wounded into the snow, fluttering its wings and kicking its legs violently for several seconds. Two of the remaining chickadees, attracted by the actions of this wounded bird, flew down in great excitement. Hopping about on the lower branches of some trees only a few feet from the dying bird, they repeatedly fluttered their wings in the attitude of young birds begging for food and occasionally turned upside down on the branches, fluttering all the while. One of them finally dropped onto the snow, fluttering and jerking very much like the dying bird. As I approached to retrieve the specimen, the uninjured bird recovered and flew to a nearby branch to rejoin its companion, and as I picked up the then dead bird, the other two chickadees remained very near, constantly displaying with their wings. They remained in the area in an excited state for some time after I retreated from the scene.

Instances of unusual behavior are recorded in the literature for several species of *Parus*. Armstrong (1947. "Bird Display and Behavior," pp. 79-80) describes these "for want of better terms" as "shamming dead" and "cataleptic fits." He cites Wellman's note (1938. *Auk*, 55:673) concerning a Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) that remained unconscious for about four minutes when frightened, and of another one that, when threatened by a Tree Sparrow (*Spizella arborea*), reverted to a cataleptic seizure similar to the one here described. More recently Hickey (1952. *Auk*, 69:88) has given an account of similar behavior of Black-capped Chickadees at her banding station, in which she cites also published descriptions of similar instances for *P. atricapillus* by Odum and for *P. hudsonicus* by Pettingill. Of a somewhat different but perhaps related nature is the account by Hunt (1951. *British Birds*, 44:278) of a female Great Tit (*Parus major*), which, while engaged in a wing-quivering displacement-display, induced the mounting response of a male Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*).

From these accounts it is evident that several species of *Parus*, in widely separated regions of the world, are similarly affected by some sort of nervous seizures under emotional stress. It seems that such behavior would be distinctly dysgenic in nature.—TOM J. CADE, *Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, College, Alaska, May 13, 1952.*