

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.

The sustained type of hawking was seen not only in the Starlings' usual daytime feeding areas, but over their summer roosting places (I am not confusing it, here, with social flying) and on several occasions along the course of their flight to a roost. Selections from my notes are:

October 17, 1938, Baltimore. At 4:45 p. m., Starlings were hawking spectacularly, in Chimney Swift fashion and usually in considerable numbers—about 10 in sight at a time—over a chiefly wooded area. Flying at altitudes of perhaps 70 to 200 feet, and widely scattered, the birds glided, made sudden half-spins sideways, and climbed almost vertically for short distances.

October 9, 1939, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. At 4:53 p. m., a number of Starlings paused and made hawking swerves during a long flight across farming country, presumably to their roost. At noon a number had been hawking over a meadow, and at 12:45 some were hawking widely above an orchard.

October 6, 1940, Baltimore. This afternoon the first Chimney Swifts, *Chaetura pelagica*, since October 2 appeared and spent 40 minutes or more hawking about, and less than a minute after I saw the first of these, Starlings began hawking over the same territory and continued pretty steadily for 30 minutes. There is a strong suggestion that the Starlings' hawking today was partly imitative, for not only did it start suddenly when the swifts appeared, but it was stopped and resumed three times in close correspondence with periodic disappearances and reappearances of the swifts.

August 24, 1949. Between 6:10 and 6:22 p. m., bands of Starlings flying to a roost near my home occasionally hawked briefly on their way, and some that seemed to have paused in outlying trees occasionally flew up and hawked briefly.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, 4608 Springdale Avenue, Baltimore 7, Maryland.

Starlings, *Sturnus vulgaris*, Eating Monarch Butterflies.—It is generally believed that butterflies of the genus *Danaus* are "protected" by chemical secretions which are distasteful to birds and to predaceous insects. On this assumption is based the theory that certain butterflies of the genus *Basilarchia* "mimic" members of the genus *Danaus*. Holland (The Butterfly Book, 1902: 84) calls attention to the close resemblance between the monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus* Linnaeus, and the viceroy, *Basilarchia archippus* Cramer. He assumes that the viceroy mimics the monarch for protective reasons.

On several occasions during August, 1950, I saw Starlings pursuing monarch butterflies. On August 17 I watched a Starling capture and eat a monarch, and on August 19 I witnessed two such captures. In each case I examined the wings of the eaten butterfly to make certain of the identification.

The summer of 1950 in West Virginia was unusually cool, and many insects were notably scarce. Broods of certain species appeared three to five weeks later than average, and some broods did not appear at all. Butterflies of all species were conspicuous by their scarcity until late in August. It may be that birds turned to butterflies of any available species for food, or it may be that so hardy and omnivorous a bird as the Starling is not effectively repelled by the chemical protection which monarch butterflies are supposed to enjoy.—MAURICE BROOKS, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Nesting of Bell's Vireo, *Vireo bellii*, in Louisiana.—Breeding of Bell's Vireo in Louisiana has been indicated for some time, but prior to 1950 no nesting record had been established. Oberholser (Bird Life of Louisiana, 1938: 503) considered the species a "very rare and local summer resident" on the basis of one bird observed by him in June and three spring records by Lowery. Lowery (Aud. Field Notes, 3: