

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.*