

NOTES

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PYGMY NUTHATCH SWINGING PYGMY NUTHATCH IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

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During a trip to Sawmill Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona, I observed a Pygmy Nuthatch (*Sitta pygmaea*) swing another Pygmy Nuthatch by the tail. On 30 July 1993, at approximately 12:00 noon, I was watching a small flock of Pygmy Nuthatches working their way down the trunk of a conifer, about 15 feet off the ground. As one nuthatch hopped down past another, the second nuthatch grasped the first's middle rectrices in its bill and swung the first bird once back and forth like a pendulum, for approximately 2 seconds. During this time, the first remained with its wings folded and did not appear to react in any way. The second bird then let go of the first's tail, and the birds continued to forage down the trunk of the tree. A review of the literature on nuthatches reveals no mention of similar behavior; indeed, I found no mention of similar behavior in any species of bird.

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