

only by this fact, but also by the more than erect usually attitude that it took while in the water. I therefore assume that the object of the immersions had something to do with the arrangement of its plumage. Another consideration is that if there had been any prey in its talons, its line of flight, i. e., to the nest, would have been, normally, quite a different one.—L. McCORMICK-GOODHART, *Washington, D. C.*

Ospreys Bathing.—On August 22, 1927, I saw two Ospreys, birds of the year, flying over a fresh water lake at Cape May Point, N. J., and repeatedly diving down head foremost, then turning and entering the water at a low angle, submerging the head and shoulders and often remaining on the surface with wings outspread for a half minute or more at a time. The birds would then flap heavily out and shaking themselves in the air would plunge in again. Each bird dove fifteen or twenty times sometimes in quick succession and made no attempt to catch anything, if indeed there was anything there to catch, for I had not seen them fishing there at any time during the summer. They were evidently bathing, possibly to rid themselves of vermin acquired in the nest.

In connection with the preceding note it seems desirable to put this observation on record.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Mock Courtship Display by Female Ring-necked Pheasants.—At Peterboro, New Hampshire, during the winter of 1931-32, Mrs. Whittle and I had daily opportunities to observe a group of Ring-necked Pheasants consisting of two males and six females, which came several times a day to our garden some fifty feet from the house, where a continuous food supply was maintained.

Throughout March and early April the behaviour of the two males changed little, excepting that their habit of distending their feathers and shaking them increased, a habit less often practised by the females.

It was not until mid-April that the males were seen to manifest any courtship interest in the females, but prior to this, during the first week in April, the behaviour of the females themselves was distinctly of a kind which in male pheasants would be called courtship display, though Townsend's account of the male's display (*Bent, Life Histories of the Galliformes and Columbiformes*), makes no mention of any display indulged in by females. This display usually took place with no males in sight and if a male were present, he appeared oblivious to the performances.

The earliest exhibition observed consisted of sudden runs for eight or ten feet from a place where the females were in a group, and an immediate return to the same place. A day or two later a female was observed with wings partially spread, her body feathers fluffed out and the tail fanned and bent forward beyond the vertical, turning around or waltzing in a circle of a diameter about equal to her length. Following this a sudden short run took place. The last performance seen of this sort was equally