

my rounds of duty one Sunday afternoon in the park, I observed a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) preening itself much more vigorously than is the custom of this species. It then fell over on its side, got up, and preened again. I noticed that, before preening the wing feathers, it picked a small ant from the ground. So fascinated was the bird in the act that park visitors walked within three feet of it while it continued its anting. The ants were *Lasius claviger*.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

Red-eyed Towhee anting.—My paper on "Anting by Birds" (Auk, 55: 98–105, 1938), like various other summaries, was followed by a surprising number of new articles and observations. As noted in that paper, the writer up to that time had not personally seen a bird anting. However, he has recently had that good fortune. The species concerned was the Red-eyed Towhee for which Van Tyne (Auk, 60: 61, 1943) reports that he had found no earlier record. At McLean, Virginia, while I was sitting on a porch during the evening (August 4, 1943), my attention was drawn to a bird under a bush. As I was engaged in conversation, it took some time for the impression of what I was seeing to crystallize. Then, with a burst of surprise and pleasure, the realization came that at last, after fifty years of bird observation, I was actually seeing anting. The bird, a male, kept very busy, picking objects from the ground and making passes with the beak both over and under the wings. The latter were held raised and arched and the feathers in general were fluffed so that the Towhee presented a peculiar, disjointed, and un-birdlike appearance. The performance lasted several minutes. Upon examination of the spot, ants were found running in all directions. They were *Lasius niger* var. *americanus*.—W. L. McATEE, *Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois.*

Unusual incubation of the Red-eyed Vireo.—On June 9, 1943, a typical nest of the Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) was found six feet from the ground at the end of a branch of a white oak tree in Falls Church, Fairfax County, Virginia. Inasmuch as no unusual circumstances were suspected, daily observations of the nest were not made at first, but from the record quoted below it will be seen that the behavior of the parent vireo varied markedly from normal in that *incubation was begun upon the laying of the first egg*, not upon completion of the clutch. All observations were made by the author at 8 p. m. on the dates shown, except the last two which were reported by an interested neighbor in the author's absence.

June 9	Nest discovered completed, empty
June 10	First egg presumably laid
June 11	Two eggs present; adult on nest
June 12	Third egg presumably laid
June 13	Three eggs; adult apparently incubating
June 23	Two eggs; newly hatched young present
June 24	One egg; two young present
June 25	Three young present, each a different size
July 4	One young reported to have quit nest
July 5	Other two young reported to have quit nest

Assuming that the eggs were laid regularly on June 10, 11, and 12, the incubation period was thirteen days each, and the young remained in the nest eleven to twelve days.—ENSGN GEORGE A. PETRIDES, U.S.N.R., *U.S.N. Preflight School, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.*