

Repeated anting by a Song Sparrow.—During July, 1947, a Song Sparrow was watched at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York, visiting almost daily a stand of dock (*Rumex*) that was infested with aphids. The bird would hop or fly to one of the large, lower leaves, look around carefully until it saw one of the ants that was attending the aphids, seize it with its bill, and then go through the well-known anting performance. The bird usually did not have a very good hold on the stem of the leaves and threatened to fall off its perch nearly every time. This stand of dock was outside my laboratory window, and it was thus easy for me to check on the repeated visits of the bird. The most striking aspect of the behavior was that the anting seemed almost like part of the bird's daily routine. When approaching the stand of dock the bird acted as if it knew exactly that it would find ants there which would permit it to indulge in anting.—E. MAYR, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

Gulls feeding on flying ants.—The following observation may be added to the rather scanty reports on gulls feeding on flying insects. On September 2, 1947, between 6:00 and 7:30 p. m., E. S. T., a flock of about 100 Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) and fifteen Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) were wheeling about 100 to 300 feet high above the lawns and gardens around the southeast shore of Cold Spring Harbor Bay, Long Island, New York. The flight behavior of the birds was so peculiar that a number of laymen took notice of it. The birds acted as if they were catching something in the air. Close observation finally revealed that winged males and females of ants (apparently a species of *Lasius*) were hatching simultaneously throughout the area above which the gulls acted so peculiarly. The large winged females flew straight up in the air and it was these that the gulls and terns were catching. The flight area covered a stretch of about half a mile in length. It is estimated that each gull may have caught 100 ants or more during this period.—E. MAYR, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.*

Courtship of the Northern Blue Jay.—Tyler, in Bent's 'Life Histories of N. A. Jays, Crows, and Titmice' (1946), says that the literature provides little information on the courtship of *Cyanocitta cristata bromia*. For this reason, and because the performance which I happened to witness differed from those described by Bent, it seems desirable to place the following observation on record.

About 8:30 A. M. on March 30, 1946, at Detroit, Michigan, I noticed two Blue Jays about 60–70 feet up in an old elm. One of them repeatedly hopped straight up and down on the limb, moving rapidly, with 5–12 hops in each series. When the 'hopping' bird came within a few inches of the other and repeated the performance the onlooker flew off. During one such performance the displaying individual pecked once at the limb as it alighted from each hop of the series, and then pecked vigorously and repeatedly at the limb after the completion of the series. No vocalizations were noted.—J. ROBERT MILLER, 1523 E. Jefferson Avenue, Detroit 7, Michigan.

Nest-robbing behavior of the Purple Martin.—On May 11, 1947, my brother, Wray H. Nicholson, stated to me that he had seen a Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*), fly into a gourd which had been placed on a pole, and emerge with a tiny young Southern Crested Flycatcher in its bill. Flying away with the tender young nestling, it dropped it a short distance away. It returned again and entered the gourd, and both flycatchers furiously attacked the invader as it stuck its head out of the opening in the gourd, but the martin appeared to be able to fight off the infuriated parents. Mr. Nicholson stated that he saw the martin carry away but one young, but it may have already taken out others so far as he knew. Naturally