

**An Unusual Nest of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).**—On June 4, 1951, Arnold Smith of Huntington, Long Island, New York, telephoned me that a pair of Common Terns was nesting on the roof of his small cabin cruiser. This boat was anchored in the middle of Huntington Harbor, a few hundred feet from the yacht club. Smith had attempted single-handed to remove the two eggs from inside a coil of rope on the roof the previous day, but the birds had driven him away. Since the birds were very pugnacious, Smith was unable to use his boat and sought my help in getting rid of them.

Since Common Terns are colonial nesting birds and do not usually appear in Huntington Harbor until August, I questioned Mr. Smith's identification of the birds. To my knowledge the only established colonies on Long Island are situated on the outermost eastern extremity, more than 100 miles from Huntington, or on the southern shore which at its nearest point is at least 30 miles away.

Therefore, it was with considerable skepticism that I got into a rowboat and accompanied Smith to his anchored cruiser to evict the birds. However, when about 50 feet from the boat no doubts remained in my mind. The birds were Common Terns and were defending a nest. The facts were just as Smith reported, except that there were now three eggs on the roof of his boat. Photographs of the nest and birds were taken.

Since I have never read of pairs of this species nesting alone so far from an established colony, I consider the incident worthy of record. It is the first nesting of this species in Huntington Harbor that any of the waterfront men can recall.—GEOFFREY GILL, 24 Overlook Drive, Huntington, Long Island, New York.

**Anting of Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) at Ramsey, New Jersey.**—August 10, 1951, was an extremely humid day with some fog during the early morning. Many warblers came into the honeysuckle vines and the maple tree at the back of our house. Among them were four Blue-winged Warblers that stayed together. I watched them from an upstairs window for some time, then came downstairs to scrutinize them more closely with 8-power binoculars. Soon two flew away.

One of the two remaining started collecting nesting materials. The other followed her around with much interest. Finally the female deposited on a fence post the dried grass she was carrying, flew to a branch of the maple tree about seven feet from the ground; thence about 20 feet to a point near the trunk of the tree, where a line of ants was working; and immediately started anting.

Her actions consisted of a definite pattern repeated in every detail three times, the whole operation lasting less than five minutes. The pattern—she picked up an ant, rubbed it through her outspread wings from the under side, and then to the upper tail coverts. This apparently was the limit of this ant's "usefulness," as she dropped it, picked up another, then stiffened her legs as she took three steps backward, put her tail in a position perpendicular to the ground, and used it to sit on as she rubbed the ant through the tail feathers from the under side two or three times.

During the entire operation the second Blue-winged Warbler circled her at about ten inches. A Red-eyed Towhee also took up a ringside position about a foot away and watched both of them.

A specimen of the ants used was collected and sent to Dr. Weber of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and Bagdad, Iraq, for identification. He reported the ants to be *Lasius alienus americanus*.

From records examined, including that of Horace Groskin (*Auk*, 67: 201–209, 1950), I am unable to find any other records of a wood warbler anting.—ELEANOR E. (MRS. JOHN Y.) DATER, Ramsey, New Jersey.