

Some Further Comments on "Anting."—On June 8, 1951, at 8:30 a. m. a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) was observed "anting" in my yard. The action took place in an area about 24 inches in diameter where ants had killed the grass, leaving bare dirt on which were several ant hills. The bird "anted" deliberately, placing or rubbing the ants under the left primaries; there was none of the posturing noted by other observers. The act was repeated three or four times when another Catbird, probably the mate of the first, flew close by. The "anting" bird immediately followed the other into a clump of mock orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*) where they had a nest.

Horace Groskin (Auk, 67 (2): 201-209, 1950) enumerated four possible reasons for "anting:" as a means of disinfection and elimination of ectoparasites; to give tone to the muscles; to wipe off the formic acid before eating the ants to rid the bird of endoparasites; and to place the ants under the wing as a food supply during migration. In the occurrence mentioned, the date would rule out the possibility of application of the migration theory.

Mr. Groskin lists nine species of birds found in the United States which have been observed "anting" with subsequent identification of the ants used. The nine are members of seven families in the order Passeriformes. Of this group the stomach contents of six have included ants. These are Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Red-eyed Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), and Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus g. quiscula*). I have found no mention of ants having been eaten by others, *viz.*, Eastern Robin (*Turdus m. migratorius*), Starling (*Sturnus v. vulgaris*), and Western Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis*).

Since three species "ant" but apparently do not eat ants, it would appear that "anting" is not done preparatory to eating the ants used. The Picidae, which subsist largely upon ants, are not included in the list of "anting" species. The Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) has frequently been seen feeding on the ants in the colony referred to above, but no "anting" by this species while on the area has been observed. Unless it can be shown that birds which eat ants are less subject to infestation than those which do not eat them, it would seem that ants are eaten for food and not for the elimination of endoparasites.

Specimens of the ants which the Catbird was seen to use were collected. These were identified by Dr. E. V. Enzmann of Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery as *Formica fusca subsericea* (Say). Since this is one of the species that excretes formic acid, some bird lice (Mallophaga) were obtained from trapped English Sparrows and subjected to a spray of formic acid. This was evidently disagreeable to the lice and caused them to flee, but it was not lethal.

Of the theories advanced in explanation of "anting," the one bearing on the elimination of ectoparasites seems the most reasonable.—WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.

A New Name for a Flowerpecker from the Philippines.—We are indebted to Mr. H. G. Deignan for calling to our attention that the name *Dicaeum rubricapilla* which we (Amer. Mus. Novit., No. 1545: 5, 1952) recently applied to a new species of flowerpecker from Mt. Kampalili, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, is preoccupied by the name *Dicaeum rubricapilla* Lesson (Traité d'Ornith., livr. 4: 303, 1830; "l'Inde?"). We propose to correct this error by calling the Philippine species *Dicaeum kampalili*, new name.—CANUTO G. MANUEL, *Philippine National Museum, Manila*, and E. THOMAS GILLIARD, *American Museum of Natural History, New York*.