

bill was diagnostic. The bird was apparently a female midway between winter and spring plumage. It had a gray back, almost black crown and nape, and cinnamon-red mottling on the breast.

The bird was rediscovered in a different part of the pond the next day by Lt. George DeCoursey, and it was seen by Dr. Richard Reinhardt, Mr. Carl Horst, and Mr. Bert Smith, now president of the Dayton Audubon Society. The phalarope stayed on the pond for five days. On the afternoon of May 6 the bird was photographed in fair light with still and movie cameras. Two hundred feet of black and white 35 mm. movie film and several good stills in color were taken with telephoto lenses. At this time the plumage seemed richer and the bird less tame. Occasionally, as it was swimming and spinning after black "flies," it would leap after them and flutter several feet across the water. This was our last observation.

Correspondence with Dr. Donald J. Borror of Ohio State University reveals that there is apparently no previous spring record for the state of Ohio and that none of the fall records for central Ohio has been from the Dayton area.—GERALD T. ROGERS, *Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, August 26, 1954.*

**Blue Jay anting with hot chocolate and soap suds.**—A hand-raised Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) obtained June 17, 1950, at the estimated age of two weeks and kept until March 23, 1951, anted upon her first encounter with ants. (We assumed her sex because of the very small wing measurement—82.5 mm.) On September 17 she picked up a small ant and at once wiped it on her primaries, at the same time twisting her tail to one side. Later there was a suggestion of anting with some other small insects. On October 22 I gave her four small ants. She immediately anted with each one, rubbing them on both primaries and rectrices, in the mean time nearly falling from her perch. This was the last of her experiences with ants while with us.

On January 6 she helped herself to my daughter's hot chocolate. After each sip she spread out her wings and wiped her primaries from one to three times, doing this 14 times in succession. During the next two days I tried her on tea and coffee (both unsweetened), and again on hot chocolate. She took a few sips of each, but failed to ant.

On January 26 she was in the sink after the dishes had been washed, pecking around and sipping up drops of water. Twice she held out her wings and wiped under them.

A month later she watched my daughter making herself a cup of hot chocolate; she approached and helped herself, anting after each of 27 sips, wiping her bill on her primaries two or three times after each sip, usually on each wing alternately. She twisted her tail to one side, but did not ant on it. Finally she took two good drinks, anting after the second.

On March 13 she was perched on the edge of the dishpan that was half full of soapy, warm water. She took a sip and at once anted, doing this five times in succession. She then hopped into the water, but came out immediately, as it was rather too deep for a bath.

Many substitute objects have been reported as stimulating anting, but to my knowledge hot chocolate and dish water are new to the list. It seems evident that there is something in the taste of ants and various other substances that releases this curious behavior.—MARGARET M. NICE, 5725 Harper Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois, September 2, 1954.