

Virginia or North Carolina. The following records may thus be of some interest. The writers saw a flock of nine Cowbirds, mostly males, at the Virginia National Guard Camp, just south of Virginia Beach, Princess Anne County, Virginia, on May 22, 1940. Courtship display was in progress. This and the date seem to indicate that the birds were breeding there. The Rev. F. H. Craighill, of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, informs us that he saw two males between Jamestown and Williamsburg, Virginia, on May 30, 1940. For the North Carolina coast Mr. Craighill has furnished us with several records: Bodie Island, June 27, 1936, one brown-headed male; Roanoke Island, June 28, 1936, several small flocks (of ten to fifteen birds), mostly young birds but some adults; Roanoke Island, June 8, 1937, fifteen at Manteo, including brown-headed males; Roanoke Island, June 1, 1938, adult male and female.—JOHN H. GREY, JR., *Raleigh, North Carolina*, and J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia*.

**'Anting' by Summer Tanager.**—" 'Anting' by the Song Sparrow" in the October 'Auk' recalls a Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra rubra*) which I observed 'anting' on September 26, 1938, at my home in North Little Rock, Arkansas; I trapped and banded the bird while it was engaged in this curious performance. It had come to a table on which, all summer, I had kept a small cup of sweetened water for Orchard Orioles, and, after their departure, for the occasional Mockingbird or Tufted Titmouse with a taste for sweets. The cup was nearly empty and, I had noticed a short time before, swarming with red ants. The tanager, squatted on the table, slid back and forth in the most grotesque way, its tail often bent beneath its body. It continually picked at feet and legs, worked under its wings with its beak, then shook out all its feathers. A second tanager flew to the edge of the table, but was driven off by the first. Then the 'anting' tanager thrust its beak into the cup of ants, next plunged its head under a wing. It seemed, from a distance, to be stowing the ants away. Close to the cup was a one-cell trap, Potter type, baited with peanuts; and this bird, as if on sudden impulse, ran into the trap. I examined it at once, but could find no ants in its plumage, although on the table were many maimed and writhing ants. The tanager was an immature male, with a few red feathers showing in the olive-green, and was given the band no. 138-109010.—RUTH HARRIS THOMAS, *Route 4, North Little Rock, Arkansas*.

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow of southeastern New Mexico.**—Brodrick (Auk, 57: 421-422, 1940) records a Rufous-crowned Sparrow from Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico, which I had identified for him as *Aimophila ruficeps eremoeca*. After reporting to him, there came to hand the description by Burleigh and Lowery (Occas. Papers Mus. Zool., Louisiana State Univ., no. 6: 67-68, 1939) of a new race of this species from the adjacent Guadalupe Mountain section of Texas. This description of *A. r. tenuirostra* served to clear up certain discrepancies between the Carlsbad specimen and typical *eremoeca* that I had noted, and shows that the former belongs to the rather distinctive new race. The Carlsbad specimen (no. 79190, Mus. Vert. Zool.) has the dark coloration and slender, less conical bill of *tenuirostra*. The bill is, however, as long and massive otherwise as in our specimens of *eremoeca* and *scotti*. Because we were unaware that Mr. Brodrick planned to record this specimen immediately, word of our revised opinion concerning identity unfortunately was not sent to him prior to the publication of his note.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.