

Ants from the hill were identified by Professor Frederick M. Gaige as *Formica exsectoides exsectoides* (Linn.). These ants are good biters and do not sting. They are capable of spraying formic acid from their abdomens; in fact, Prof. Gaige characterized them as "one of the richest extruders of formic acid in North America."

The literature on the "anting" of birds has recently been reviewed by McAtee (*Auk*, 55, 1938: 98-105) and Nice (*Auk*, 57, 1940: 520-22).—ARTHUR E. STAEBLER, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.*

**European Starling Nesting in a Bank Swallow Burrow.**—On May 9, 1942, while inspecting the walls of a large gravel pit about nine miles northwest of Albany, New York, I observed an adult Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) fly from one of the Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) burrows there. The Starling carried a pellet of excrement in its bill, good evidence that it was attending young within.

In the afternoon of May 12, I again visited the gravel pit. Shortly after my arrival an adult Starling emerged from the burrow with a pellet of excrement which it dropped after flying about sixty feet.

This gravel pit lay near a surfaced and moderately traveled highway extending over rolling, open country in an agricultural community. Several rural homes and the usual complement of farm buildings were in the immediate neighborhood.

The walls of the pit, which had been excavated in a roughly circular manner over an area of perhaps three acres, were precipitous and varied in height from 15 to 30 feet. The burrow occupied by the Starling was in the deepest portion of the pit. Only two or three other Bank Swallow burrows were on the same face of the bank as the one occupied by the Starling. This bank face and the burrow entrance were directed north. However, just around a sharp promontory, a few feet southeast of the Starling's burrow, were some 60 additional Bank Swallow burrows either completed or in process of construction. Their entrances faced the east. The swallows themselves were swarming about these burrows, entering and emerging from them frequently.

Obviously the burrow occupied by the Starling had been excavated by Bank Swallows. It was three feet below the rim of the pit and about 25 feet above its floor. The opening to it had been eroded a little so that it was higher than wide. However, it was not large enough to permit insertion of my hand. The burrow itself was 19 inches deep. With a small flashlight I could plainly see the well constructed, grass nest and two young Starlings 5 to 6 days old. They appeared to be in good condition and intermittently broke forth in unison with the characteristic hunger call.

During the course of my examination, which comprised some 70 minutes, one of the adults approached with food two or three times. One parent, perhaps the same one, expressed vocal dissent at my presence on each of two or three fleeting aerial sorties. But within ten minutes after I had left the immediate vicinity an adult Starling entered the burrow with food for the young. Other Starlings obviously were nesting about the nearby farm buildings and from time to time some of them alighted in the tall trees at one side of the gravel pit.

In the more or less intensive observation and study of the Bank Swallow which I have carried on over a period of twenty years this is the first time that I have found a Starling occupying a burrow of that bird as a nesting place.—DAYTON STONER, *New York State Museum, Albany, New York.*