

was observed by residents on North Prospect Street only a few blocks away from the previous location. It remained for about two weeks. In April of 1955 a female albino robin was again found at the same place and was possibly a return of the same individual. This bird was all white except for several small brown patches on the wings and back. The eyes were normally colored. She was mated to a normal male and the juveniles were likewise fully pigmented. The female, as before, did all of the incubating and brooding. She was last seen in late July, and has not returned to date.

On September 19, 1955, a robin that was all-white except for a brown feather on the left wing and a brownish streak in the middle of the tail was found on Chestnut Street in Kent by Randy Hill, a small school boy living in the neighborhood. This albino was observed until October 2.

Attempts to capture (for banding) the three albino robins reported here were not successful. None was found in 1956 in those places mentioned above. Albino birds probably have a short life span. An exception was a partial albino observed in Cleveland from 1863-65 inclusive (Garlick, 1868. *Amer. Nat.*, 2:492).

The only completely albino robin seen by the writer was a juvenile bird which he banded on July 13, 1948, in Akron, Ohio, and reported in detail (1949. *Bird-Banding*, 20:187). It was never located again, although two white robins were reported from the same neighborhood in the summer of 1949. Two of the three cases mentioned in this note were symmetrical in their coloration pattern. Very often albinistic patterns of robins are asymmetrical (Dexter, 1947. *Auk*, 64:460-461).—RALPH W. DEXTER, *Department of Biology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, December 3, 1956.*

**Sanderlings eat fishermen's bait minnows.**—The Sanderling's (*Crocethia alba*) habit of picking up and eating tiny fish from the edge of the beach, where they have been washed up, is well known, as is the fearlessness of man shown by single birds or small parties of this species. A third condition, man making small fish available, would complete a set of circumstances suitable for a social feeding relationship between bird and man. This third condition exists on a concrete pier at the south end of Lake Michigan, in Michigan City, Indiana. There many people fish for perch, and the favorite bait is a tiny minnow brought alive in buckets. Frequently there are numbers of dead bait minnows lying on the pier, thrown, dropped or spilled there by the fishermen.

For some years I have been aware that during the autumn migration small numbers of Sanderlings often were to be found on this pier, and often in close proximity to the humans. However, only in October, 1956, did I realize that sometimes Sanderlings sought out the fishermen, waited near them, and ate bait-minnows when available.

On one occasion I saw a Sanderling within four feet of an isolated pair of fishermen, pick up and eat a minnow from the pier. I stopped to watch and one of the fishermen, noting my interest, reached into his bait bucket for a live minnow which he tossed three feet toward the watching bird. The Sanderling at once ran, picked up the fish, and, after mouthing it for a moment, swallowed it.

On another occasion three Sanderlings were standing a few yards on one side of a solitary fisherman, while two dozen or so tiny minnows were lying dead on the pier on his other side, apparently thrown there by a fisherman who had left. With some hesitation one Sanderling, within reach of the man, edged between him and the water, though it could easily have circled him at a greater distance, found the minnows and ate five in quick succession. The other birds then joined the first but, perhaps replete, only pecked at the minnows. However, one bird finally picked up a minnow and ran with it. A second bird at once gave chase, the first one dropped the minnow and the second

picked it up and swallowed it. This competition for a bit of food took place even though many other apparently equally desirable minnows were lying on the pier, illustrating how one bird's feeding activities may stimulate another's.

Apparently it is a regular practice and apparently well known locally for Sanderlings to be "hangers-on" of perch fishermen of Michigan City pier for the sake of the bait minnows that may be thrown them or left available. Presumably this habit is of recent development, for the country has been settled only about 100 years. With the larger gulls (*Larus*), belonging to a family closely related to that of the sandpipers, the habit of waiting on man for fish or fish scraps is conspicuous. With sandpipers, which eat such small items of food, one would not expect a suitable opportunity to exist often. However, it does arise occasionally, as the above account shows, and then the Sanderlings illustrated how quick birds can be to take advantage of small new factors in their environment.—A. L. RAND, *Chicago Natural History Museum, Chicago 5, Illinois, December 4, 1956.*

**Anting by two tanagers in Brazil.**—It seems that the performance of anting by birds has not yet been reported from South America; during many years of bird study in Brazil I saw anting only twice, both cases in tanagers:

*Tangara cyanicollis melanogaster* Cherrie and Reichenberger.—On September 19, 1953, at Serra do Cachimbo, between Tapajós and Xingú river, State of Pará, a single bird high up in a forest tree picked up something on the branch on which it stood, and then rubbed the bill against its feathers, mostly under the wings and under the tail. Doing this, it spread its flight feathers and sometimes cocked the tail upwards in a manner very strange for a tanager. The distance was too far to see what the bird had picked up and I could not watch the unusual attitude more in detail. Knowing "anting" well from the literature, I had no doubt however, that it was the very performance J. Huxley recently designated as "one of the outstanding puzzles of ornithology." After some time I tried to shoot the bird in order to learn something about the presence of ants or some acid smell, which perhaps might have induced the mysterious behavior—but the bird managed to escape.

*Tangara cyanoventris* (Vieillot).—On February 1, 1955, at Mury, near Nova Friburgo, Serra do Mar, State of Rio de Janeiro, a flock of the tanagers were perched in a tree near the weekend-house where I lived. Some of the birds examined the branches in a striking manner; having found the substance for which they were looking eagerly and which was not plentiful there, they picked it up and ran their bills along the underside of the half-spread wing. Doing this, one bird raised and pivoted its wing and tucked its tail on the same side so roughly that the tailfeathers touched the branch and bent themselves. The movements were carried out very rapidly; therefore I realized the facts only after several repetitions by some of the birds. The distance did not permit me to see what the birds were looking for and what they took into their bills. I could not see if ants were really concerned. On the stump of the tree I collected some ants (*Campenotus rufipes*, *Iridomyrmex humilis*, *Brachymyrmex admotus*, *Procryptocerus* sp. and *Myrmelachista* sp.) crawling upwards or downwards the tree—but I cannot say if one of these insects reached the canopy where the tanagers stayed and if the birds used the ants performing the curious behavior observed.

Such records made at a distance can supply little in the discussion of the difficult problem of anting and I have no suggestion to make as to the biological function of this strange instinctive activity. But the fact that these observations were made in the wild seems to rectify the publication—while most of the statements on this behavior are real-