

An older nest, now fallen, was located in the swamp woods of the small basin referred to above, in the 1940's. We looked for it in 1958 without finding any trace.

It is interesting to speculate upon the origin of this eagle population. Perhaps it is most likely that a substantial part are Florida eagles summering in the north as suggested by H. K. Job (1908. "The Sport of Bird Study") and confirmed by Broley (1947. *Wilson Bull.*, 59:3-20), but this remains a speculation until more data are obtained. A study of arrival and departure dates for this eagle concentration may shed some light upon this question. Deep lakes nearby do not have eagles, I have been assured both by fishermen and guides, and the concentration described above is certainly seldom found anywhere in the northern Appalachian region.—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, *State University of N. Y. Medical College, Syracuse, N.Y.*, 6 September 1961.

Anting behavior of a Wood Thrush with a snail.—On 30 April 1961, in a wooded tract called Meeting of the Waters, owned by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I sat down on a foot-bridge at a small stream to watch and listen for warblers. A pair of Wood Thrushes (*Hylocichla mustelina*), foraging on the woodland floor only 30 feet away, were raking aside dead leaves with quick thrusts of their bills. As I watched, one of them seized an object in its bill and ran with it to the nearby woodland trail. There, on more solid ground, it began to hammer the object on the path in an obvious effort to break it. Through my binocular, I could see that the object was a snail, and a relatively large one. The glimpse I had of its flattened shell and spiral suggested that it belonged to *Polygyra*, a genus of land snails with which I am somewhat familiar, and which contains a large number of species.

Suddenly the Wood Thrush did an astonishing thing. Between moments of hammering the snail on the ground, it began in lightning-quick stabs to thrust the snail under its wings, along its flanks, and beneath its under tail coverts, just as a bird will do when anting. It dabbed the snail in its feathers a number of times before it finally broke the snail's shell into two parts and quickly bolted down the larger part, shell and all. Before I could move toward it to recover the remaining piece of shell, with a view to identifying the snail, the thrush ran to the smaller piece and swallowed it.

According to food-habits studies of birds (Junius Henderson, 1933. "The Practical Value of Birds," The Macmillan Company), all of our native thrushes, including the Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) and Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*), eat some snails. W. L. McAtee, former food-habits investigator with whom I discussed this experience, said that it is likely that many birds eat the shells of snails for their lime content, as well as the meat of the snail itself.

In a search of the literature, I could find no previous record of a bird anting with a snail, though the possibility of it may help to explain the transportation of snails by birds.—JOHN K. TERRES, *P.O. Box 571, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*, 3 May 1961.

A prolonged Starling fight.—On 23 May 1959, while in Spotswood, Middlesex County, New Jersey, I watched an unusually prolonged fight between two Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). The encounter took place between 11:00 AM and 12:15 PM DST on a flat, tar-papered porch roof about 15 feet above the ground. The following is a résumé of notes taken while watching the combatants at a distance of 5 to 10 feet from a window overlooking the roof:

11:00—two Starlings (males, based on length of the hackles on the breast and darkness of the eye) have been rolling around and fighting for two minutes—clawing, biting, and grasping. They finally assume the pose shown in Fig. 1, at 11:02,