

In trying to explain the purpose or function of anting, there are two suggestions resulting from my observations that may warrant investigation: (1) Whether or not other anting birds are molting or growing new feathers; and (2) since spraying water attracted birds to feed and bathe, is anting a behavior pattern associated with bathing and dusting.—WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, *Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, 18 February 1963.*

The Carolina Parakeet in Michigan.—There has been no prior, even approximately acceptable, record for the occurrence of the Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) in Michigan. The following was written of the St. Joseph River in 1718: "It is the best place that could be found for getting a living and cultivating the soil. There are in this place pheasants, as in France; quails and paroquets" (Monsieur de Sabrevois, 1902. "Memoir on the savages of Canada as far as the Mississippi River, describing their customs and trade." *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 16:372). Only a small part of the St. Joseph flows through Indiana. At present South Bend, Indiana, there was a short portage to the Kankakee River which flows into the Illinois River. The route was used extensively by the early French missionaries and fur traders. French forts once existed at the mouth of the St. Joseph, at Niles, Michigan, and at present South Bend. P. F. X. de Charlevoix (1923. "Journal of a voyage to North America." Chicago. II:189-190) wrote in 1721 that "parrots" were to be found on the Kankakee in summer, thereby strengthening the probability of their occurrence along the St. Joseph in Michigan.—A. W. SCHORGER, *University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 14 March 1963.*

A note on Snowy Owl food habits.—Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) invaded southern Wisconsin in considerable numbers during the winter of 1960-61. Information on food habits of some of these birds was secured, largely through pellet analyses. Most of the pellets were collected from the winter territories of five owls at Horicon Marsh. As anticipated, their staple diet consisted of meadow voles (*Microtus*) and muskrats (*Ondatra*) (Table 1). These two prey species were especially vulnerable due to the

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF PREY REMAINS IN SNOWY OWL PELLETS FROM HORICON MARSH, WISCONSIN¹

Prey species	No. pellets containing prey remains	Percentage of total pellets	Minimum no. of prey individuals represented
Meadow vole (<i>Microtus</i>)	27	73	56
Muskrat (<i>Ondatra</i>)	11	30	10
Duck	9	24	4
Rat (<i>Rattus</i>)	1	3	1
Other birds	1	3	1

¹ Based on 37 pellets picked up from five owl territories during January-March.

scanty snow cover and cold weather. Many muskrats with houses in shallower water were frozen out, and were seen in the Marsh as "runners." Crippled ducks were evidently taken from a waterhole below the federal dike; there were also numerous carcasses of ducks scattered about the Marsh from the previous hunting season.

Other food-habits data were as follows: The stomach of a bird killed on Lake Mendota

on 14 February held four red-backed voles (*Clethrionomys*) and one meadow vole. A pellet seen cast by a Snowy Owl at Dushack's Marsh, northeast of Madison, on 28 March, contained three meadow voles. Part of a freshly killed American Coot (*Fulica americana*) was dropped by an owl observed in Madison on 17 April, while two pellets from another Madison Snowy Owl on 21 April contained two rats (*Rattus*) and one meadow vole.—LLOYD B. KEITH, *Department of Wildlife Management, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 15 March 1963.*

An observation of parental behavior of a Rough-winged Swallow.—On 13 June 1959, Vincent Abraitys and I were leaning on the parapet of the highway bridge that spans Lockatong Creek, a small stream that empties into the Delaware River two miles north of the Borough of Stockton in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Below us a few Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) were hawking for insects above the water.

A small number of these birds have nested every year beneath the bridge in the open drain pipes that are encased in the bridge abutments. One of these pipes, the end of which extends an inch or so beyond the concrete, is situated about 2½ feet above the water, which there forms a quiet eddy a foot or so deep. Measured from a point directly below the pipe, the nearest shore is 5 feet distant. There a slightly inclined margin of clay separates the streamside vegetation from the water.

As we watched, a swallow entered the pipe and in a moment reappeared and flew off. There then appeared at the opening a young bird which teetered for a moment on the edge and then dropped into the water below, where it lay quietly with outstretched wings. Within seconds, an adult bird, which we assumed was a parent, appeared and hovered for a moment above the fledgling, then dropped lightly upon the fledgling's back and, with rapidly beating wings, propelled the fallen bird across the water toward the shelving bank. The old bird did not relinquish its position nor cease to beat its wings until the fledgling was completely out of the water. It then flew off, and the young bird, using its feet only, edged its way toward the waterside shrubs where it disappeared from our view.

Neither Abraitys nor I have found in the literature at hand any reference to such parental behavior, yet it seems not unreasonable to believe that for species nesting under conditions so precarious, succoring their young in this fashion might well be the rule.—HOWARD DRINKWATER, *Old Road, Whitehouse, N.J., 2 April 1963.*

Solitary Vireo found nesting in south-central Ohio's Hocking County.—Previous to 1961, the Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) had been recorded nesting in only three Lake Erie counties of northeastern Ohio (records reported in: 1933. *Wilson Bull.*, 45:189; 1950. Williams. "Birds of Cleveland Region"; published notes of Cleveland Audubon Society). The only recent records are from the Cleveland area.

On 10 June 1961, I heard the song of *V. solitarius* in Old Man's Cave State Park, Hocking Co., Ohio. Later that day a second male was heard in the vicinity of Ash Cave, about a mile's air distance from the first location. On the following morning, in the company of Jeff Kraemer and Jerry Meyer of Cincinnati, Ohio, I set out to investigate the unprecedented June occurrence of this species in Hocking Co. A short time later the male was observed carrying facial tissue to its nearly completed nest in a birch sapling near a park picnic area. Three-quarters of the outer structure was composed of strips of tissue, indicating the proximity of humanity, and the remainder was of bark of native birch.

On 16 June 1962, Jay Sheppard, Richard Watkins, Paul Woodward, Jeff Kraemer, and