

9. G. M. Mathews. *The Birds of Australia*, vol. 4, pp. 40-41, Lond., 1913.
 10. E. A. LeSouëf. 'Western Notes,' *Emu*, vol. 2, p. 31.
 11. P. Fountain. *Rambles of an Australian Naturalist* (from notes and journal of Thomas Ward), p. 219, Lond., 1907.
 12. Tom Carter. 'Birds Occurring in the Region of the North-West Cape,' *Emu*, vol. 3, p. 30.
-

Little Shrike-Thrush 'Anting'.—While in the Northern Territory, I encountered the Little Shrike-Thrush (*Coluricincla parvula*) in only one restricted area—a small swampy jungle beside Coomalie Creek, Batchelor. As little appeared to have been recorded of this species, I spent some time watching in this jungle, but with little result, because, although the birds were not shy, the undergrowth was too dense to permit sustained observation of any one bird.

One incident, however, appears to me to be of special interest. On February 4, 1945, one bird, apparently foraging, came within ten feet of me, where it thrice picked up objects, which, from their size and colour, I took to be millipedes. Each of these objects was brushed under one of the bird's wings and then dropped. It was only on the third repetition that I realized that the bird was 'anting'. Unfortunately, the bird then moved off without again repeating the action.

I then examined minutely the place where the bird had been—a small area of leaf-carpeted ground—and found four millipedes, but no other objects, animate or inanimate, that could have been those observed in the bird's bill. Two green ants (? *Oecophylla virescens*), which were present, were not used by the bird. The millipedes were hard-shelled enough to escape injury from the bird's bill, which could account for the absence of maimed individuals. I could detect no odour about the millipedes and was, at the time, unable to reconcile what I had observed with any of the current theories relating to 'anting'.

At a later date, however, I discussed this matter with Mr. A. Musgrave, of the Australian Museum, Sydney. He informed me that in the Myriopoda, odoriferous glands are mostly present and referred me to one of his articles in the *Australian Museum Magazine* for April-June, 1943, in which he quotes an account by Mr. C. T. McNamara, of the blinding of a young dog by a New Guinea species. This same species is reputed to cause blindness among the natives.

It appears at least possible that the species employed by the Shrike-Thrush is one which secretes an acrid fluid. It has not, as yet, been possible to identify these millipedes.—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Bilbarin, W.A., 26/2/46.