

a case in which captive Landrails rubbed mealworms on themselves. (See introductory material).

1957. N. McCance, in *Melbourne Weekly Times* (August 28), reports that when, a few days previously, he threw a mass of termites into an aviary, a female Society Finch anted with some of them. McCance describes this occurrence as 'amazing and incredible', first because termites do not contain acid and secondly because the Society Finch, a fertile hybrid, is "the only bird in the world that has never occurred in a wild state".

1957. A. May, in *Melbourne Weekly Times* (Sept. 9), says that when tending bee-hives near Noorinbee, Victoria, he saw an Emu approach one of the outer hives, carefully pick bees off the lid, and "ruffle them in his feathers". The insects did not appear to make any attempt to sting the huge bird. It is added that bees have a strong odour when crushed.

1957. N. McCance, in *Melbourne Weekly Times* (Oct. 16), again expresses astonishment at the use of termites by his Society Finch (which, previously, "had never even heard of them!") and, after a general discussion of the subject, publishes a note from a correspondent who misquotes German writings of the 1930s.

1958. J. N. Hobbs, in a letter (Jan. 7), reports having seen in 1956-7 anting on the part of the Raven and the Yellow-tailed Thornbill.

1958. A. H. Chisholm, in *The Australian Encyclopaedia* (1, 209), summarizes knowledge of anting and suggests that its general effect, in all probability, is similar to that which birds obtain from submitting their bodies to the action of sunlight, water, dust, smoke, or steam.

Tern Display Flights.—The spectacular display flight of the Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*) has recently been described in detail by J. D. Gibson (*Emu*, vol. 56, pp. 131-132).

At Port Kembla, on the southern New South Wales coast, I observed the Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) indulging in a similar form of display on December 28, 1958, and again on January 22, 1959.

Procedure is basically the same. Fish-presenting ceremony and accompanying dance over, the participants climb to a height of several hundred feet, circling each other and calling loudly. On attaining the zenith of this upward spiral, the birds plunge into a breath-taking downward glide, twisting and turning in perfect unison, and finally come to rest again among the assembled flock on the beach.

If this remarkable form of display is peculiar to the marine species of terns, as has been suggested, it is strange that so few references have been made to it in our bird literature.—A. R. SEFTON, Thirroul, N.S.W., 11/4/59.