

beech forest on the Wanaka side of the valley, and on the track which follows the river. None of us had ever seen a similar bird before, although we have all done a considerable amount of tramping and climbing in this type of bush country. We had just spent a fortnight in the valley and two of us had also been there in the previous May. It was particularly surprising to see the Orange-wattled Crow (*Callaeas c. cinerea*) where we did, just at the bush-end and where there were only patches of forest with open flats between, with numerous cattle and deer; and not in the dense undisturbed forest at the head of the valley.

On my return to Dunedin I described the bird independently to Dr. R. R. Forster and to Mr. James Watt, who both immediately confirmed my diagnosis as Kokako. I feel that there can be no doubt about the correctness of our identification.

ANN CHAPMAN



#### SOME INSTANCES OF ANTING BY STARLINGS AND MYNAS

On 27/3/55 I saw two Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) strutting about on the lawn of my Wellington garden about ten yards from the window in a most peculiar manner. At first I thought they were displaying in some way. They seemed to be walking round each other in a small circle, but I soon noticed that they would peck at the ground and then thrust the beak under the wing. I called my wife and she said at once, "They are picking something up from the ground and putting it under their wings." After we had watched them for another seven minutes I went out and examined the ground, and, as I expected, there were ants running about on the spot where the Starlings had been. During the actual process, the birds stood rather upright and lifted the wing without actually spreading it.

On 23/10/55 I again noticed a Starling 'anting' on my lawn in the same place.

E. B. JONES



I was puzzled one day in January when I saw two Starlings acting strangely on the path. They appeared to be preening but in a different way from usual. Then I realised that they were 'anting' and that I was watching something that had been reported in other countries. One bird tried to chase the other away, but it did not move far, only side-stepped and went back to that part of the path where ants were most plentiful. Both birds then 'anted' vigorously for some minutes.

A. PRICKETT



After reading an article about 'anting' by birds in the National Geographic Magazine (July, 1956) I was able to understand the antics of two Mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*) in a Tauranga garden on 31/10/58. They stood facing each other with beaks almost touching, on the grass by a concrete path, and alternately pecked something off the wet grass and rubbed it from below the wing down the thigh. There were usually many ants at that part of the path. The Mynas were not eating the material which they picked up.

R. V. McLINTOCK