

and may gallop quickly after them, before making a thrust with its low-held head. This constant activity and quick walking down the pool is quite unlike the normal movements of a White Heron, which walks slowly and carries itself erect, holding its neck and bill high. The neck appears to have a backwards kink in it about two thirds of the way to the head. While fishing the bird is very deliberate and is stationary frequently. It holds its head high with neck outstretched, slowly reaches forward and out while lowering its head somewhat and flexing the neck a little, then catches its food with a swift thrust. Once only, in many hours of observation, have I seen a White Heron run. It caught a fair sized Yellow-eyed Mullet (commonly referred to hereabouts as a Herring) and attempted to change its grip, but dropped the fish, which left a "v" shape in the shallow water as it made off rapidly. The White Heron ran in a most ungainly fashion for about ten yards then gave up, assuming what appeared to be a most indignant attitude. The heavier orange bill, heavier body, more upright stance, and generally more deliberate movement aid identification of the White Heron. Perhaps the manner of carrying its head held high is the most important feature. The Little Egret keeps its head low.

It appeared that if the Little Egret and White Heron came into competition for food supplies, then the Little Egret would get more than its share in shallow waters.

— P. GRANT



ANTING OF STARLINGS AND CHAFFINCH

I have been very interested in the notes on "Anting" as, from 18th December, 1959, until 27th April, 1960, Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were anting about 30 feet away from my kitchen window. The performance took place at any hour of the day from 8 a.m. until 5.45 p.m. and the procedure was similar to that described by Bathgate (*Notornis VIII*, 265) except that the birds, if disturbed, immediately flew off.

The most spectacular exhibition I was fortunate enough to witness was that of a Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) where the bird was much more excited and appeared to be in a greater frenzy than the Starlings.

All the anting was done in one particular portion of my neighbour's lawn under and to one side of a maple. During December and January, when the Starlings were accompanied by young, in no case did the young birds "ant." From my observations, the young Starlings had almost completely attained adult plumage before they began anting.

Although Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) were frequently feeding in this particular area, at no time did I ever see a Blackbird ant.

— L. E. WALKER



FEMALE CHAFFINCH SINGING

Among other birds a pair of Chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*) resident in the garden is attracted by kitchen scraps suitable for bird food put out on the lawn. On 15/8/59 the hen settled on the short grass and moved about seven feet to the food, singing as she went. While feeding she continued with short bursts of song. The usual final notes of the full song were not added. The movement of her bill and