

interchange of calls at night, together with the ground "runs" found between tree and tree, leads me to believe that colonies exist in the same way as with Rock Hyrax. I can well imagine that during darkness there is a considerable "get-together" amongst members of each colony.

Hyrax were easily trapped in very great numbers by forest terrorists. I found a great many traps and without exception these were set at the base of trees that were inhabited by hyrax and at the spot that was used when descending or ascending.

The trap comprised a foot noose made of fine home-spun twine laid on the ground and attached to the tip of a bamboo shoot bent over like a taut bow, and released by a simple trigger device set beneath the noose. By this means so many were trapped that in some areas of the Aberdares the call of the hyrax became a rarity. Their reproductive capacity is obviously high, because today they appear to be as numerous as they were before.

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AN ANTING DISPLAY BY THE BLACK-BELLIED SEED-CRACKER

By

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On the morning of January 9, 1960, a male Black-bellied Seed-Cracker, *Pirenestes ostrinus* (Vieillot), was observed "anting" in a fork of the main trunk of a Para rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) some 20 feet from the ground in the Botanic Gardens, Entebbe, Uganda.

A small pile of leaves had gathered in the fork and a number of ants about half an inch in length had evidently made their nest there. The bird sat among the leaves, scabbled among them with its feet and at the same time fluffed the lower belly feathers and made the shuffling movements with the wings usual in most passerines during washing. The latter were both held drooped and tented over the flanks during the movements. In addition, the beak was plunged downwards among the leaves and drawn under the belly between the wings in repeated movements.

In this way the ants were evidently pushed or placed among the lower body feathers and on the inner surface of the wings. Ants were seen running out over the flanks and rump of the bird at the same time. The bird visited the ants three times for a duration of about five minutes on each occasion. Between the visits it sat on a nearby twig wiping its beak on it and making further shuffling movements with the wings. After some 20 minutes' observation with binoculars, x 8, and a telescope, x 20, the bird departed.

The behaviour most resembles the "indirect" anting of Simmons (1959) but the additional beak movements suggest "direct" participation and orientation of the activity by the bird. It is considered to be a combination of both the "direct" and the "indirect" anting methods.

Reference

SIMMONS, K. E. L., 1959. Anting Movements. *Ibis* 101, 368-372.

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