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Birds eating charcoal.—The birds mentioned by Mollison and Green (*Emu* 61: 277-80) could have been after charcoal to eat. I have recently seen four different species take charcoal near my home in north-western New South Wales.

On October 9, 1962, Fairy Martins, *Hylochelidon ariel*, were observed freely dust-bathing in ashes and picking at charcoal. On February 9, 1964, several Fairy Martins flew low over a newly-cut lawn and came down to rest on the ground, where they gathered injured moths and ate charcoal from an ash mulch around fruit trees. Next day, at 6 p.m., one bird was seen to take a piece of charcoal the size of a small pea.

On January 5, 1963 a Dusky Wood-Swallow, *Artamus cyanopterus*, took a small piece of charcoal and flew away. Again on December 29, 1963, several of these birds were seen eating charcoal.

On June 9, 1963, Banded Finches, *Steganopleura bichenovii*, and on May 5, 1964, Zebra Finches, *Taeniopygia castanotis*, were seen eating charcoal.—Mrs M. BALDWIN, Gwydir Park, via Auburn Vale, Inverell, N.S.W.