must have been caused by toxins absorbed from the parasites.—FRANK A. HARTMAN, *Ohio State University and Archbold Biological Station, Florida.*

Clam catches oyster-catcher (Plate 15, lower figure).—In going over personal field notes on wildlife the writer found the accompanying photograph, a rather poor but interesting illustration of an unusual bird death. In June, 1939, while I was living on the Cape Island unit of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Charleston County, South Carolina, an adult American Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus palliatus palliatus*) was found that had its bill caught by a hard-shell clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*). As pictured, the bird was dead but the clam, living and still holding firmly to its 'prey.' The Oyster-catcher presumably had been probing the beach mud at low tide when the clam, just at the surface, had closed on the extreme tip of the bird's bill. The rising tide must have drowned the imprisoned bird, with crabs removing the neck flesh before the Oyster-catcher was found. Several residents of the vicinity have informed me that they have heard of a few Oyster-catchers being found with their toes caught by bivalves, but during five years' residence on the area the incident described was the only one observed by me. Despite the extensive feeding of these birds around oyster and clam beds, this accidental fatality is believed to be of rare occurrence.—WILLIAM P. BALDWIN, *Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Manning, South Carolina.*

Insects eaten by Brewer's Blackbirds.—Six mature Brewer's Blackbirds were collected in an alfalfa and wheat area on the outskirts of Meadow, Millard County, Utah, on June 10, 1943; their stomachs were preserved in alcohol. Recently the stomach contents were examined, revealing certain interesting things. One stomach held 2 adult and 63 nymphal treehoppers, *Campylenchia latipes* (Say), besides other insects. Another stomach contained 8 adult and 22 larval alfalfa weevils, a clover leaf weevil, a histerid beetle and an elaterid beetle, etc. Total recognizable contents consisted of: 17 nymphal grasshoppers; the 18 Hemiptera included 1 pentatomid, 3 lygaeids and 1 mirid; of the 84 Homoptera, 65 were membracids, 15 were aphids including 8 pea aphids, and 2 leafhoppers; 57 Coleoptera, among them 19 adult and 16 larval alfalfa weevils, 2 clickbeetles, 3 white grubs, a buprestid and histerid; 1 adult Trichopteron; 40 larval Lepidoptera; 2 larval Diptera; 10 of the 15 Hymenoptera present were ants. Three spiders also were present.

This interesting blackbird is sufficiently abundant in many parts of Utah to be of importance in the control of cutworms, grasshoppers and certain other insect pests, when it comes in flocks to feed upon such abundant sources of insect food.—GEORGE F. KNOWLTON AND P. E. TELFORD, *Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.*

Moonseed fruits as bird food.—On February 10, 1946, Dr. George A. Hall and I observed a flock of eleven Cedar Waxwings along the Olentangy River, north of the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. The birds were feeding on the drupes of moonseed, *Menispermum canadense.* One of the birds was collected and an examination of the intestinal tract revealed three seeds, portions of skin, and juice of the berry. Since the berry is claimed to be poisonous to humans (Van Dersal, 1939, p. 168; Fernald and Kinsey, 1943, pp. 65, 67; Muenscher, 1939, p. 95), I was curious to know its use as a wildlife food. In correspondence from Mr. A. L. Nelson, Patuxent Research Refuge, Bowie, Maryland, he stated that their files show records of one Towhee, two Robins, one Brown Thrasher, and one Wild Turkey utilizing this plant as food. As a matter of record, it was thought that it might be of interest and worth while to report the above observation.—GEORGE H. BREIDING, *Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.*