Robins feeding on hairy caterpillars.—Although several authors state that Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) eat hairy caterpillars (Forbes, Trans. Illinois State Hortic. Soc., 13: 119–176, 1879; Perrior, Auk, 16: 284, 1899; Forbush, Useful birds and their protection, Boston, Wright and Potter Co., 1907, p. 288), none mention the removal of the setae.

On 19 March 1968 in Hamden, New Haven County, Connecticut, I watched a group of about 35 Robins feeding on the edge of a woodlot bordering a grassy field. In 30 minutes I saw three different birds eat the hairy black and tan larvae of the banded woollybear moth (*Isia isabella*). Before swallowing them, the birds removed the setae by holding the larvae in the bill and scraping them against the ground with rapid sideways shakes of the head. The movement is similar to that Robins use to prepare earthworms for swallowing, but differs in that the larvae are pressed against the ground and scraped against abrasive stones and vegetation.

The birds scraped for 2 to 3 seconds, dropped the larva, looked at it, then picked it up and either scraped it again or hopped to another spot before scraping again. Each time the bird seemed to hunt actively for a suitable rough surface before scraping. The scraping bouts averaged 18 per minute and in two instances 10 and 12 minutes elapsed before the larva was ingested. In a third instance I secured a larva after it had been scraped against a gravel roadbed for about 7 minutes. Only a few setae remained on the tail and head ends. Probably the length of scraping time needed to remove the hairs varied with the type of ground surface.

While I watched them these Robins ate no earthworms. Perhaps while earthworms were unavailable, they were able to utilize a less desirable food source by modifying motor patterns used to prepare earthworms for swallowing.—EUGENE S. MORTON, *Department of Biology, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520.*

Nest-robbing by Cooper's Hawks.—The preponderance of bird items in the diet of the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) has been shown in many studies. Apparently less well known is the fact that some individuals capture nestlings of prey species. Meng (Wilson Bull., 71: 169–174, 1959) saw a male Cooper's Hawk bring two live Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) nestlings to his nest. Hamerstrom and Hamerstrom (Wilson Bull., 63: 16–25, 1951) found that "at least 8.4 per cent" of the food of young Cooper's Hawks were nestling birds. The circumstances of capture of such prey has not been clear; whether the hawk sighted and captured the nestlings on the ground after they tumbled from their nests or actually took them from their nests is not stated.

During the last week of July 1966 I had an excellent opportunity to observe an adult male Cooper's Hawk at close range at Shuswap Lake Provincial Park, British Columbia in mid-afternoon. The hawk perched in several trees within 50 feet of me for almost 15 minutes. Near the end of that time it landed near the top of a 15-foot sparsely leafed birch and craned its neck so as to peer straight down. In a crotch 5 feet below was the nest of a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) that the young had recently left—I had seen and heard two or three of them wandering about in the grass and bushes below a half hour previously. The hawk dropped straight down onto the branch 2 feet out from the nest, remained there only a few seconds, then suddenly darted off through the woods. During this time the parent Robins were nowhere in evidence. It seemed not entirely fortuitous that the hawk should remain in the vicinity so long and then visit the Robins' nest tree before leaving.

Near Vernon, British Columbia, at noon on 29 July 1963, my attention was sud-

denly drawn to a Robin's nest in a small grove of trembling aspens about 75 feet away by a great furor created by two adult Robins, a pair of Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), and several Say's Phoebes (*Sayornis saya*). With 8 × 25 binoculars I could see that their concern was an adult (sex undetermined) Cooper's Hawk standing on the Robins' nest. The parent Robins repeatedly darted very close to the hawk. The hawk clenched its feet rapidly several times, presumably to kill the young nestling(s), uttered a low "cack-cack-cack" several times while being harassed, then quickly flew across a small marsh into another grove of aspens, hotly pursued by the kingbirds. By following the kingbirds' calls and attacks into the foliage I was able to find the hawk and see that it carried one almost fully grown young Robin. The kingbirds chased the hawk several hundred yards—and I was unable to see where the hawk took its catch.

Richards (Condor, 69: 88, 1967) reported a Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) tearing the top from the nest of a House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) while being harassed by a pair of Robins; he also noted seeing a Sparrow Hawk with a fledgling Robin "that must have been removed from a nest." Drinkwater (Auk, 70: 215, 1953) saw a Sparrow Hawk eating a young bluebird it had apparently taken from its nest. Obviously the Cooper's Hawk also occasionally captures nestling birds in their nests.—R. Wayne Nelson, *Department of Biology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.*

A Brant specimen from Alabama.—On 10 January 1968, Eugene Collett and William Sweeton, both of Huntsville, Alabama, shot a Brant near the Beaverdam Creek Embayment of Wheeler Reservoir, Limestone County, Alabama. These men brought the specimen to the office of the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. Employees there tentatively identified it as a Brant and air expressed this specimen to the U. S. National Museum where its identification was verified as *Branta bernicla hrota* by Roxie C. Laybourne. The specimen, in first year plumage, is now preserved in the collection of that museum. This appears to be the first recorded specimen from Alabama.—Thomas Z. Atkeson, Jr., *P. O. Box 1643, Decatur, Alabama 35601.*

Egg puncturing behavior in Laughing Gulls.—Interspecific territorial disputes sometimes result in one species destroying the eggs of another species (Bent, 1926: 174–175, 182; Weller, 1961), but very few reports exist of breeding birds destroying eggs of their own species (Goethe, 1937; Dexter, 1956). This note documents a case of egg destruction by members of a colony of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*). During a 4-year study (1964–67) of habitat selection in a maritime Laughing Gull colony in Cape May County, New Jersey, I used 122 extensive and permanently established 20 × 20 meter quadrats to count and record the positions of hundreds of gull nests in various parts of the gullery. The low-lying salt marshes where the Laughing Gulls breed have an elevation at or near mean high water level and are often flooded by higher than normal tides during the breeding season (Stone, 1937: 337, 549, 573–574, 600–606).

On 15–16 June 1965 storm tides flooded parts of the gullery, floating many nests. The wind then pushed them along with other floating debris, mainly dead grass stems known locally as "thatch," into huge, floating, jumbled masses of nests and flotsam approximately 100–400 square meters. After moving 10 to 100 or more meters, these