and back to an opossum, she flew southeast with her bill full of grey hair. This was of such quantity, and so carried, that it gave the appearance of a handle-bar mustache.

The same titmouse made 15 trips to the tree where the opossums were and back to her nesting site. During this time she made some 225–300 landings on the back of one opossum or the other. Eventually, the opossums became almost passive, so that with less trouble and chirping than at first, the bird got its billful of hair. It was estimated that 75–100 pecks were required to gather the 100 or so hairs carried on each trip to the nest. Thus, in some 1,125–1,500 pecks, the titmouse gathered at least 1,500 hairs. During the half-hour following the fifteenth trip, she returned no more. The opossums had napped, scratched, licked their fur and moistened their feet (with their tongues) in order to "wash" their backs, necks, and ears, during the antics of the bird. When I left, the opossums had been in the tree two and three-quarter hours and the titmouse had pulled hairs, at intervals, for one and one-half hours. While the female titmouse gathered hair, the male sang, fed, and followed the female back and forth. Five times between hair-gathering trips the female stopped to feed, and on seven occasions was fed large caterpillars by the male. When being fed, the female fluttered her wings and twittered like a fledgling.

Bent (1946. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 191:394–397) gives instances of titmice collecting hair from living animals, these animals being the red squirrel, woodchuck, and man. Other fibrous material found in various nests, along with vegetation and mud were: horse hair, pig bristles, cat fur, wool, cotton, fibrous bark, Spanish moss, snakeskins, and feathers.—JOHN W. GOERTZ, *Oklahoma Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Contribution No. 333, Department of Zoology, Oklahoma State University, 8 May 1961.*

An unusual Brown Thrasher fatality.—On 16 April 1961, while conducting a field census in connection with certain fire ant investigations, I observed the following incident near Macon, Noxubee County, Mississippi.

In mid-morning, extremely strong and persistent winds were blowing from the northwest, and the temperature was in the low 60's. As I approached a farm pond (ca. 5 acres) from the northwest, a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), came out of a patch of tall grass and flew to the levee which was devoid of vegetation other than short grass. In flight it was apparent that the bird was barely able to cope with the wind and considerable effort was required to maintain proper equilibrium.

A few minutes later, I climbed the levee and noted the thrasher still present some 60 yards away and that three pigs were approaching from the other side. As the pigs came near, the thrasher appeared to become frightened and flew down over the levee to the edge of the water, seemingly reluctant to fly into the wind. When the pigs reached a point opposite the bird, it flew out across the water, at a right angle to the wind and about 10 feet above the surface. After proceeding nearly 65 yards with obvious difficulty, the thrasher attempted to turn and return in the direction from which it had come. In so doing, the wind caught it, the bird lost equilibrium and plunged into the water. My first impulse was to attempt to rescue. However, the water was some 4 feet deep at the point of entry. As I observed with binoculars, the thrasher attempted several times to become airborne, but when its wings were lifted, the wind caught and forced them into an unusable position. After a minute or so the bird ceased to struggle and permitted its head to submerge. Later, the wind moved it to the center of the pond where the body became lodged in some aquatic vegetation.

The thrasher's short, broad wings and unusually great tail surface undoubtedly are

well adapted for an existence requiring the intricacies of controlled flight in dense thickets and shrubs, the normal habitat of the species. The foregoing account appears to be an instance where an individual, caught in a marginal environment under unusual circumstances, found these same adaptations to be ill suited for the occasion.

It is interesting that three Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) on the same pond refused to depart when disturbed, although they flew back and forth across the pond, again with some difficulty. Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) and meadowlarks were noted to take refuge on the lee side of the levee away from the full force of the wind.—DENZEL E. FERGUSON, *Department of Zoology and Entomology, Mississippi State University, State College, Mississippi, 18 April 1961.*

Observations of birds feeding on overwintering corn borer.—During the annual spring corn borer survey for Delaware in early March 1959, entomologists at the University of Delaware found that many of the cornstalks examined had holes pecked in them. The holes, empty when examined, almost invariably opened into chambers once occupied by larvae of the European corn borer (*Pyrausta nubilalis*). Blackbirds were conspicuously numerous in cornfields at this time and were suspected of taking corn borers.

Being officially engaged in blackbird studies, I was particularly interested in these findings. Baker, Bradley, and Clark (1949. "Biological Control of the European Corn Borer in the United States." Tech. Bull. No. 983), list the following birds as being seen feeding on European corn borer:

Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*)
Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)
Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)
Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*)
Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*)
Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*)
Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)
Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

They credit particularly the Downy Woodpecker and the Red-winged Blackbird with having been frequently observed removing large numbers of corn borer larvae and eggs from specific fields.

During 1959 and 1960 I made numerous observations of all species of birds seen in cornfields within 50 miles of Newark, Delaware. Downy Woodpeckers were the only birds seen pecking holes in dead cornstalks and removing and eating the larvae found inside. In November 1959, at the University of Delaware, two stalks of corn containing corn borers were placed upright in a cage containing 15 Red-winged Blackbirds and several Common Grackles. The stalks were examined over a month later and showed no evidence of bird feeding. They were then cut open and four living European corn borer larvae were removed from one stalk and one from the other.—DON FANKHAUSER, *Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland, 16 June 1961.*