

Cedar Waxwings that often completely strip the tree of fruit in a matter of hours. In late February 1981, we noticed that almost none of the fruit had been used. One afternoon several days later, we saw an aerial clash near the fruit tree between a mockingbird and Cedar Waxwing. The mockingbird pursued and forced the Cedar Waxwing to the ground in a small planter where it pinned the waxwing and repeatedly struck the other bird with its bill, killing it. When we went to retrieve the dead bird, we found another Cedar Waxwing lying dead nearby. Both birds had several similar wounds on their backs. None of the wounds showed any evidence of skin puncture but each was marked by subcutaneous bleeding. In January 1982, we found another dead Cedar Waxwing with a shallow puncture wound on its dorsum lying within 15 m of the cherry-laurel tree. We cannot with certainty attribute the demise of the latter two waxwings to mockingbird aggression, since we were not witness to either of their deaths. However, the similarities of the wounds and the proximity of the dead birds to the fruit tree lead us to strongly suspect it.

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**American Coot apparently suffocates while attempting to swallow lizard.**—On 14 February 1981, along the shoreline of San Pablo Reservoir (approximately 30 km northeast of San Francisco, Contra Costa Co., California) at 13:00 I discovered a dead American Coot (*Fulica americana*) lying face down in shallow water in a small inlet. A dead western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), 16.5 cm in length, had one-third of its body lodged head first in the coot's gullet. The plumage of the coot was still normally waterproof, its eyes were open and glossy, and rigor mortis was not complete. An autopsy was performed on the coot and the cause of death appeared to be suffocation (with verification from Howard Brooks-Korn, D.V.M.). The lizard was blocking the glottis, cutting off air to the lungs. The raised scales of the lizard may have prevented the coot from regurgitating the lizard. It appears the lizard did not try to bite or hold onto the inside of the coot's mouth. The coot's physical appearance seemed normal and no indication of starvation was noted. Opening of the gizzard (the esophagus was empty) revealed fragments of grass and sand. A search of literature yielded only one pertinent paper (Jones, Food Habits of the American Coot with Notes on Distribution, Wildl. Resear. Bull. No. 2, Bur. Biological Survey, U.S. Dept. Interior, 1940) which mentions salamanders and other amphibia in the diet. No previous mention of predation on lizards was found, but fish are taken (Jones 1940).

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**Head-scratching method of Galapagos finches unaffected by variation in cranial morphology.**—The head and bill of Darwin's finches (Geospizinae) have undergone rapid and extensive morphological change (Grant, *Am. Sci.* 69:653–663, 1981). Thus, the Geospi-