Dr. Jak H. Mendelson Chief, National Center for Prevention and Control of Alcoholism, National Institute of Mantal Health 5454 Wisconsin Avenue Chevy Chase, Maryland 20203

Dear Dr. Mendelson:

The enclosed clipping on robins consuming fermented pyracantha berries is about the only documentation I have been able to find on this natural phenomenon. I am sure I have also read recument reports of this sort of thing from spring to spring, in the New York Times, but have not been able to find them, nor has a rather limited search turned up any scientific literature on the subject.

I did talk to the Mr. Dan Clark who is mentioned in the Palo Alto Times article, and found this very entertaining but not particularly useful from the apoint of view of natural history.

We were both readily able to exchange reminiscences about a pet dog and pet cat, respectively, who had both developed a taste for one specific alcoholic beverage, namely cognac. The alcohol conceivably might be incidental, but perhaps that observation should not be dismissed too hastily.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg Professor of Genetics