

eastern side of North Atlantic or to the Mediterranean, but they have been recorded on the North American coast and as far south as the Cape of Good Hope." Stokes was apparently unaware that although the species was attributed to North America by nineteenth century literature, all current comprehensive works (Palmer, 1949; Squires, 1952; A.O.U., 1957; Tufts, 1961; Todd, 1963; Godfrey, 1966) reject all the published reports as unconfirmable. The one traceable reported specimen was a misidentified Leach's Petrel (Oberholser, 1917: 167).

Thus the present specimen appears to be the first unquestionable one collected in North America.

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Black Vultures attack live turtle hatchlings.—Black Vultures, *Coragyps atratus*, have been seen attacking various animals including baby herons, domestic chicks, newborn calves, skunks, opossums, and piglets (Baynard, 1909; Figgins, 1923; Redington, 1932; McIlhenny, 1939; Townsend, 1937). Another instance of their preying on live animals occurs at Organabo beach, French Guiana. Here hatchling leatherback turtles, *Dermochelys coriacea*, usually emerge from their nests at night, but daylight emergences in the late afternoon, probably related to cool weather, are not uncommon. The tracks of hatchlings below the high tide mark at this time are evidence the animals have emerged by day. Footprints of vultures may be plentifully interspersed with the tracks of turtles. It is often possible to predict a daylight emergence from a distance by the congregation of vultures. When approached these fly off, leaving dead turtles, headless and without front legs and viscera, strewn around; sometimes these are still wet. On one such occasion I saw a vulture pecking at and picking up

in its beak a live hatchling that was still kicking after I frightened the vulture off (Figure 1). Thus the predatory behavior of vultures at Organabo is clearly a hazard for leatherback hatchlings emerging by day.

Black Vultures, unlike Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), find their food primarily by visual search (Stager, 1964). There seems no obvious reason why a fairly powerful bird that does not rely on olfactory cues from decaying flesh for locating its food should specialize on dead food only. The present observations reinforce the impression building up from previous accounts that Black Vultures readily prey on a limited variety of live animals. I thank the National Research Council of Canada and the Surinam Forest Service for support.

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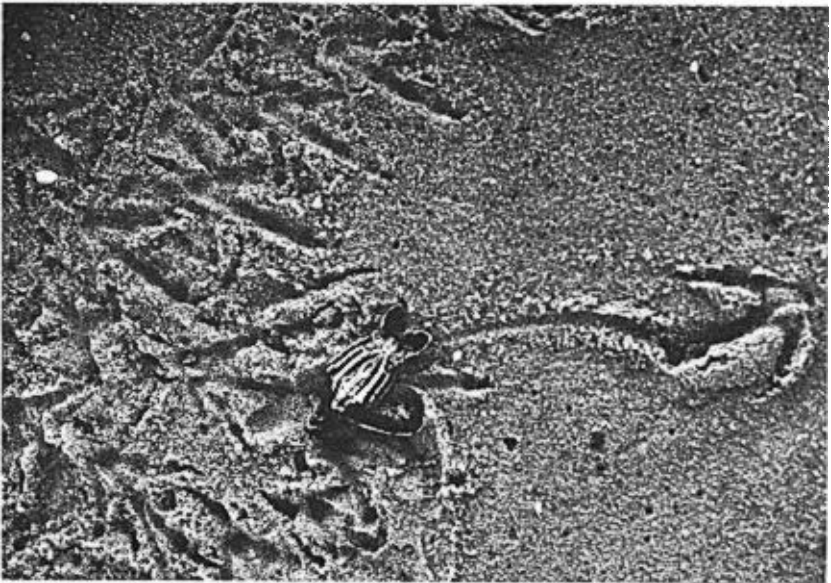


Figure 1. Leatherback turtle hatchling attacked by Black Vulture. If undisturbed, vultures usually eat the head and front limbs.