

Dead Herring Gull is found inside dead Goosefish.—On 2 October 1974 we found a dead Goosefish (*Lophius americanus*) containing an entire Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) near the high tide line on Plymouth Beach, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Because of the fish's distended abdomen and the white feathers protruding from its cloacal opening, we dissected it and found a dead female, adult Herring Gull. The gull apparently was swallowed head first because the head was folded down the middle of the bird's back. The absence of rigor mortis and the posture of the bird suggested that it was alive when consumed. The following measurements were made of the gull: natural wing chord, 402 mm; overall length (tip of culmen to tip of tail), 565 mm; length with head folded, 275 mm; weight, approximately 1.3 kg; maximum circumference with head folded back, 390 mm. The bird had extensive primary and secondary molt and probably was incapable of flight when it was consumed. Measurements of the female fish were: length (including tail), 851 mm; width of mouth (horizontal), 200 mm; height of fully open mouth (vertical), 140 mm; weight, 4.8 kg.

Although Goosefish are bottom dwellers (Bigelow, H. B. and W. C. Schroeder. Fishes of the Gulf of Maine. Fishery Bulletin of the Fish and Wildlife Service 53, Fishery Bulletin 74, 1953) there are several records of Goosefish with sea birds and up to seven waterfowl in their stomachs (Bigelow and Schroeder, op. cit.). How such meals are taken is subject to conjecture. In the incident reported here, it is likely that capture was facilitated by the flightlessness of the gull. We have subsequently talked with a federal game agent who has had two reports by hunters of Goosefish rising to the surface of the water, grabbing healthy Herring Gulls, and swallowing them whole. He also reports having seen dead Goosefish on beaches with feathers protruding from the cloaca.—SARAH GROVES AND GEORGE PEABODY, *Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Massachusetts, 02345*. Received 21 October 1974, accepted 20 November 1974.

Pseudoscorpions on a Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*.—On 4, March 1974, I retrapped a Dark-eyed Junco in Eldora, New Jersey, where I had banded it two years previously. While reading the number on its band, I noticed a procession of small creatures emerging from the contour plumage and moving down the bird's legs. They dropped off one by one, until eight of them were milling about on my desk. They looked like tiny lobsters as they waved their pincers in the air, although even the largest one was scarcely 0.25 in long.

These were pseudoscorpions, members of one of the numerous small orders of the Class Arachnida. I had looked for ectoparasites on nearly 15,000 birds over the past 46 years without ever finding a pseudoscorpion. That is somewhat understandable because pseudoscorpions are not ectoparasitic. However, they are known to practice phoresy, hitching rides on a variety of flies and other mobile creatures, to get from place to place. Indeed, they are not rarely found in birds' nests where they feed on mites and similar small scavengers, and they have to be transported to those sites by some means.

Dr. Curtis W. Sabrosky of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory at the United States National Museum kindly gave me the names of two specialists in this group of arachnids. I submitted the specimens to Prof. William B. Muchmore at the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. He informed me that unfortunately the collection did not include a male, and he was therefore unable to make even a positive generic identification of the one female and seven nymphs I had sent. On the other hand, he wrote that this instance of pseudoscorpions on a bird was apparently the most detailed one thus far recorded. Many loose statements in the literature refer to pseudoscorpions being carried by birds, but most of them are only presumptions, based on finding pseudoscorpions in nests. Professor C. Clayton Hoff, of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, the other expert recommended to me by Dr. Sabrosky, concurred with Professor Muchmore's opinions, and both those gentlemen gave me generous help in preparing the background for this note.

Bird banders are more likely than any other group of people to encounter pseudoscorpions on birds. The creatures are unmistakable, not to be confused with any of the conventional avian ectoparasites. Since there is need for further documentation of the role of birds in transporting pseudoscorpions, all specimens should be collected in 70 percent alcohol and sent to one of the authorities mentioned above.—C. BROOK: WORTH, R. D., *Delmont, N. J. 08314*. Received 3 November 1974, accepted 5 December 1974.