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Further Evidence of White-tailed Deer Eating Birds in Mist Nets.—The White-tailed Dear (*Odocoileus virginianus*) has been reported consuming animal matter on several occasions. Stone and Palmateer (*N.Y. Fish Game J.*, **17:** 63, 1970), Olson (*J. Mammal.* **13:** 80–81, 1932) and Shaw (*J. Mammal.*, **44:** 284, 1963) reported consumption of birds, fish, and insects, respectively, by White-tailed Deer. Carlson and Sloan (*IBBA News*, **47:** 217–219, 1975) reported a number of instances of birds being eaten while captured in mist nets, and considered White-tailed Deer as the predator.

In 1976, the bird population studies on which Carlson and Sloan (op. cit.) were working were continued on the Baraga Jack Pine Plains, in Baraga County, Michigan. The 28 mist netting stations in this essentially pure Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*) forest were operated four days a week for most of the summer. Three incidences of consumption of captive birds were recorded in June 1976. On 19 June the remains of an unidentifiable bird were found in a mist net. The moist feather and skeletal remains contained little fleshy material and appeared well masticated. Deer tracks were numerous in the soft sandy soil surrounding the net. On 29 June, the moist remains of a Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttata*) were found in a net about one meter from the ground. As previously, the feather and skeletal remains were well masticated with most fleshy tissue removed. Deer tracks were observed in the soil beneath the bird. On the morning of 30 June, the remains of a Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) similar to those found previously were removed from a net less than one half meter from the ground. Deer tracks were observed on the trail approaching the net.

The moist, well masticated feather and skeletal remains of the entire birds as found here would eliminate most small mammals of the area as possible predators. Predation by large carnivores on the captured birds would most likely result in the bird being removed from the net and consumed entirely. Although no animals were observed in the process of consuming a captive bird, White-tailed Deer were observed regularly in the area, and evidence implicating White-tailed Deer is strong.—THOMAS A. ALLAN, *Department of Forestry, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI 49931. (Present address: 1903 E Woodmar Dr., Houghton, MI 49931).* Received 10 October 1977, accepted 26 December 1977.

Adult Female Ring-billed Gulls Sexually Molest Juveniles.—During the spring of 1976, we observed 18 color-marked pairs of *Larus delawarensis* at the Calcite Colony, Rogers City, Presque Isle Co., Mich. from mid-incubation through juvenile departure. Subsequent to marking, the sex of each adult-plumaged pair member was predicted on the basis of behavior and intrapair size differences. Later 50% of these birds were collected for parasitological examination and their sex was verified. Our findings through the latter method showed our preliminary sexing procedure to be 100% accurate.

On three separate occasions, we observed two different color-marked adult females mount chicks and perform copulatory behavior. Their wing-flagging actions and accompanying vocalizations appeared similar, if not identical, to those described for male Ringbills by Southern (*Bird-Banding*, **45:** 210–216, 1974). We have witnessed Ring-billed Gulls

in adult and subadult (2-year-old) plumages mount juveniles on previous occasions, but this is the first time that individual markings permitted us to identify the sex of the adult participating. It is interesting that females perform this behavior and particularly surprising that they can duplicate the associated auditory and visual displays normally performed by males.

Descriptions of our observations follow. On 9 June, a female Ring-bill (F1) that we had been observing since 23 May, opened her bill, gave a copulation call while standing next to one of her own 14-day-old chicks and mounted it. The chick collapsed under her weight (Fig. 1) and repeatedly gave a jingling distress call resembling that emitted by chicks when attacked and pecked by neighboring adults. On 10 June, F1 again mounted one of her chicks. Her mate, which had been absent on the first occasion, reacted by long-calling, but did not actively interfere. The chick's reaction was similar to that described for the first occasion.

On 19 June, another female Ring-bill (Y1), in a different part of the colony, momentarily left her own 21-day-old chicks untended and mounted a neighbor's chick of similar age that was not attended by either of its parents. The chick collapsed and distress-called as had those that F1 mounted. Y1 then returned to her site and pecked at a foreign chick that had joined her brood.

Y1 was among the adult gulls collected on 8 July and proved to be a female. F1 was not collected, but the accuracy of our predictions regarding sex of all birds under observation allows us to feel sure that F1 also was a female.

FIGURE 1. Young Ring-billed Gull collapses under the weight of an adult sexually mounting it.

The overall frequency of such molestation behavior appears to be low within a colony. Its occurrence at all, however, raises some interesting questions about the endogenous state of females that perform such behavior and the stimuli given by chicks that may elicit such responses. However, the phenomenon is difficult to study because it is impossible to predict where or when such behavior will be exhibited.—LINDA K. KINKEL AND WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, *Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL 60115.* Received 22 September 1977, accepted 28 November 1977.

Longevity of White-winged Scoters.—During annual colonial bird banding expeditions to Redberry Lake, Saskatchewan (52°40′ N, 107°40′ W), the senior author noted that adult female White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta fusca deglandi*) left their nests beneath clumps of the bristly gooseberry (*Ribes setosum*) in a slow and cumbersome manner (Houston, 1955). When reaching into such a tangle for a fleeing gull or pelican one could sometimes, almost in self-defense, seize an adult female scoter. Over half the incubating scoters could be caught by hand before they reached normal flight speed.

Scoter banding thus became an irregular and incidental procedure carried out by the senior author in 14 of 20 years that he visited islands on Redberry Lake. The number of scoter hens captured depended on the number and agility of helpers, the weather, and the proportions of vulnerable unfeathered young pelicans whose presence sometimes necessitated our quick departure. With the exception of 1974 when no visit was made, at least two scoters have been banded each year since 1966. The junior author studied scoters on the islands in 1975, 1976, and 1977.

Of 86 adult female scoters banded at Redberry Lake by the senior author, 28 have been caught on 33 occasions in subsequent years, a return rate of 33 percent. For the 66 scoters banded from 1966 on, 26 birds have been caught 31 times for a return rate of 39 percent. Six recaptures were after 1 year, 6 after 2 years, 4 after 3 years, 5 after 4 years, 5 after 5 years, 2 after 6 years, 2 after 8 years, 2 after 9 years, and 1 after 10 years. Of these, one was caught 3 times at 2, 3, and 4 years after banding. Three were caught twice: after 3 and 5 years, after 4 and 6 years, and after 9 and 10 years.

The mean length of time after banding for the 28 returning scoters was 4 years and the median time 3 years. The average age at recapture must have been at least 5 years, since scoters, buffleheads, goldeneyes, and mergansers are not known to breed before 2 years of age (Bellrose, 1976). Our figures, although somewhat skewed by inconsistent sampling, suggest an annual mortality for adult female scoters only about half of that given for most other duck species (Bellrose, 1976).

Our oldest scoter (637-97322) was caught both 9 and 10 years after she was first banded on her nest with 8 eggs on 9 July 1966. The junior author recaptured her on 19 July 1975 on 10 eggs, and again on 22 July 1976 on a nest with 9 eggs. On the latter date she was almost certainly at least 12 years of age, if one presumes that she first bred at 2 years of age. Continuing research by the junior author, using web-tags applied to scoter ducklings on their hatching day, may settle conclusively the age at which this species first breeds on this continent.

One unpublished record exists with a longer lapse between banding and recovery dates in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service files. This White-winged Scoter (577-26801), a flightless local when banded by Duane C. Lowery near Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan on 2 August 1961, was found dead at Tomales Bay, California in February 1973, at an age of 11½ years.

No North American longevity record was given for this species in a recent compilation (Kennard, 1975), and the two scoters reported above appear to represent new longevity records for this continent. The longevity record for the European race is said to be 12½ years (Rydzewski, 1975).

We wish to thank the many assistants who helped us catch these scoters, Jay Sheppard for searching the files of the Bird Banding Laboratory, Leigh H. Frederickson and Anthony J. Erskine for helpful advice, and Duane C. Lowery for permission to use his unpublished record.