

Turkey to that time, but the bird may have continued her attack if we had not interfered. The bird had apparently pecked the snake several times on the head as multiple superficial wounds were present, and the brille and cornea of the right eye and the brille of the left eye were perforated. The only other external wound was 65.5 cm posterior to the rostrum where the Turkey apparently pecked the snake as she picked it up and shook it.

The conditions under which this Turkey-snake encounter took place are unknown. However, this event occurred during the normal nesting season for Turkeys. That there were only 2 hens in the group suggests they were involved in nesting activities since females in this area rarely occur in such small aggregations except during successful breeding seasons.

Though rarely reported, Turkey-snake encounters are not unprecedented. Jennings (Texas Game and Fish, 14[8]:3, 1956) reported a Turkey hen severely beating a 1 m rattlesnake with her wing.—SAMUEL L. BEASOM AND OLIVER H. PATTEE, *Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M Univ., College Station 77843. Accepted 29 Oct. 1974.*

Hooded Merganser kills a meadow vole.—On 27 August 1974 at 12:30, I saw an immature (1½ years old) male Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) kill a young meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) and attempt to swallow it. The vole, a female, was 83 mm long (body and tail) and weighed 9.1 g. The merganser was in an outdoor pen (4.5 m × 9.0 m) at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland. It was hatched from an egg collected in the wild and artificially incubated and maintained on a diet of duck breeder pellets and dry dog food. The merganser caught the vole in tall grass at the edge of a water tank and bit down on the head repeatedly. After the vole was dead, the bird made several unsuccessful attempts to ingest it. I found that the vole's skull was completely crushed. On 29 August, I found a second juvenile vole dead in the water tank. It was a male, 95 mm long and weighing 10.0 g. Its skull was crushed also. These observations suggest that Hooded Mergansers may on occasion capture and ingest small mammals.

The food of Hooded Mergansers consists mainly of crustaceans, small fish, frogs, insects, and some vegetable matter (Kortright, *The ducks, geese, and swans of North America*, American Wildlife Inst., Washington, D.C., 1942; Bent, *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 126, 1923; Vermeer et al., *J. Wildl. Manage.*, 37:58–61, 1973). I have found no report of small mammals being taken as food by Hooded Mergansers, although Salyer and Lagler (*J. Wildl. Manage.*, 4:186–219, 1940) report shrews (*Sorex*) being found in the stomachs of two American Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*).—DONALD H. WHITE, *Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20811. Accepted 7 Nov. 1974.*

Food washing by grackles.—It is well known that Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) will place hard bread and crackers in water to soften them before eating (Bent, *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 211, 1958), but variations of this kind of behavior do not seem to have been recorded. At my winter home in Ocala, Florida, for years I have watched this species “dunk” bread in water. The local Common Grackles will do this