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**Novel rape avoidance in the Mallard.**—Rape in the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) has been well described by Leuret (Ardea 49:97–158, 1961). Rape attempts are readily distinguishable by: (1) resistance on the part of the female in the form of struggling and/or escape behavior; and (2) absence of pre-copulatory displays characteristic of normal, non-forced pair bond copulations (see Barash, Science 197:788–789, 1977). Female Mallards use a variety of tactics to avoid rape, including hiding, diving under water, evasive flight and fighting with the rapists (Weidmann, Z. Tierpsychol. 13:208–271, 1956; Titman and Lowther, Can. J. Zool. 53:1270–1283, 1975; Barash 1977). I now present what I believe to be previously undocumented mechanism by which females avoid rape.

Mallards were observed for a total of 40 h along the Yahara River in Madison, Wisconsin, from 16 March–3 May 1976. The population consisted of approximately 100 partially tame birds occupying a 50 m stretch of river and bank where they were fed regularly by visitors. Censusing on 12 April showed a 54:45 sex ratio favoring males.

At 16:00 on 12 April a female was approached by 3 males. One male grabbed her at the nape and attempted mounting. Breaking free, the female ran and flapped along the water. She then flew up, circled and glided, landing on a horizontal tree limb 7 m above the water. The group of males congregated below her, exhibiting “grunt-whistle” displays accompanied by an occasional call, which was either a “slow” *raehb* or *räb räb* call. The female remained static on the limb except when giving a “decrescendo” call. For the rest of the day this type of rape avoidance behavior, perching in trees, was witnessed 3 more times. A different female was involved each time and at one point, 4 females were aligned on the same limb.

I had not witnessed this behavior prior to 12 April, although rape attempts were regularly seen. I did not observe this behavior again. However, my next observation was on 25 April when half the birds were gone, and nesting, presumably, had begun. Mallards nest in trees so the sight of a perched Mallard is not uncommon during the nesting season. Perching per se may not be new to these birds, but the context in which it is used might be.—VERNER P. BINGMAN, Dept. Zoology, Univ. Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. (Present address: Dept. Biology, SUNY Albany, Albany, New York 12222.) Accepted 29 July 1979.

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**Sunbathing behavior of the Pied-billed Grebe.**—In their review of sunbathing in grebes, Storer, Siegfried and Kinahan (Living Bird 14:45–57, 1975) state that, although sunbathing postures are widespread among species of Podicipediformes, sunbathing is unknown in Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*). Likewise, concentrations of dark pigments in the skin and feathers have not been reported for this species. Wetmore (Auk 37:221–247, 1920), however, briefly described a sunbathing posture in pied-bills. Our paper presents behavioral and morphological evidence of sunbathing in Pied-billed Grebes in Iowa.

We watched Pied-billed Grebes from 23 April–21 July 1977, from blinds at Smith's Slough and Dewey's Pasture, Clay Co., and from the shores of Hottes Lake, Dickinson Co. All are state-owned marshes in northwest Iowa. We used a 15–60× spotting scope or 7 × 35 binoculars to observe orientation and posture of individual pied-bills while they were between foraging dives or loafing. Orientation was recorded relative to both the direction of incident solar radiation and wind, and posture was designated as sunbathing or not sunbathing. Description of the postures came from field notes and photographs. Skin and feather pigmentation were determined from museum specimens and carcasses.

Pied-billed Grebes assumed sunbathing postures closely resembling those of the Least