

TABLE 1  
TIME SPENT ON AND BENEATH THE WATER SURFACE BY A COMMON LOON  
AND NINE OLDSQUAWS

Species	Position of birds	Number of observations	Time (in seconds)		
			Mean $\pm$ S. E.	Range	Dive : pause ratio
Common Loon	Submerged	8	52.1 $\pm$ 4.6	26-61	2.1 : 1
	Surfaced	9	25.1 $\pm$ 2.3	15-42	
Oldsquaw	Submerged	9	52.4 $\pm$ 0.7	49-54	4.3 : 1
	Surfaced	9	12.2 $\pm$ 0.4	9-14	

sessions, approximately two-thirds of the loon's total time and four-fifths of the Oldsquaws' total time was spent submerged. The group of nine Oldsquaws operated on a more regular diving schedule than the single loon.

Discussing observations on 40 dives of the Common Loon, R. S. Palmer (*Handbook of North American birds*. Vol. 1. New Haven, Yale Univ. Press, 1962; see p. 34) indicated that dives varied from 8.5 to 60 seconds; in other observations on diving loons cited by Palmer the average submergence interval was 43 seconds, but the number of observations was not reported. In the report by W. J. Breckenridge already cited, intervals spent by Oldsquaws on and beneath the surface of the water were somewhat longer than I observed. The reference states that "they dove [spending] on an average of one minute and twenty seconds under water and forty seconds at the surface." D. D. Dow (*Auk*, 81: 556-558, 1964), however, made observations on Oldsquaws in closer agreement with mine. He observed a dive : pause ratio of 4.1 : 1 for 28 dives as compared with my 4.3 : 1 for 9 dives. With a range of 47.6 to 67.1 seconds beneath the surface and 6.2 to 28.2 seconds on the surface, Dow found a wider range of variation than I did. I observed a range of 49 to 54 seconds beneath the surface and 9 to 14 seconds on the surface. The wider range observed by Dow was partly to be expected because of a larger sample; however, it appears that my birds may have been operating on a more precise schedule than were those studied by Dow.

The observations reported in this note were made when I was stationed at Petersburg, Alaska, conducting research on the effect of DDT on the Bald Eagle for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.—PAUL A. STEWART, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Entomology Research Division, Oxford, North Carolina.

**A 36-year-old wild Herring Gull.**—On 29 June 1930, Stanley Hyde, Paul A. Walker, William A. O. Gross, and I went onshore for an hour on Duck Rock, not far offshore from Monhegan Island, Maine, and during this brief stay banded 81 young Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) whose ages averaged about 10 days. Of the 19 young which I banded, one (A676871) was found dead on 20 June 1966, by a group of Girl Scouts on the shore of Little Traverse Bay near Petoskey, Michigan.

This 36-year life-span of a wild bird may well exceed any other so far reported. In a recent listing of longevity records by W. Ryzdewski (*The Ring*, 3: 147-152, 1962), the record for a bird in the wild is held by a Herring Gull in Europe which was banded as a chick and recovered 31 years and 11 months later.—OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR., Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.