

Heintzelman and Newberry (1964) reported mean diving times of 2 Horned Grebes as 19.24 ± 6.11 (SD) sec and 17.38 ± 3.80 (SD) sec, respectively.

It is probable that differing ecological factors (Heintzelman and Newberry 1964, Jenni 1969), as well as interspecific behavioral differences, and possibly interspecific physiological differences, contributed to the variation in the diving times of various species of grebes. Intraspecific differences in diving times and distances occur under varying ecological situations among Pied-billed Grebes. Coefficients of variation (Table 1) suggest that escape dives are much less variable in both time and distance than are forage dives. This situation might be expected if birds diving to escape a predator were diving closer to their maximum times and distances. Forage dives, being more random in time and distance, exhibit greater variability.

Kathleen M. Bleich and Hans Megens helped with the field work. Most of the observations were made while I was a Ranger at El Dorado Park. Rear Admiral J. W. William, Jr., Captains W. E. Betzer and F. R. Cassilly, and Commander J. R. DeView provided access to Navy property.—VERNON C. BLEICH, *Dept. of Biology, Rio Hondo College, Whittier, CA 90608; Present address: California Dept. of Fish and Game, Chino Fish and Wildlife Base, Rt. 5, Bird Farm Rd., Chino 91710. Accepted 24 Oct. 1974.*

Status of the Gyrfalcon in Illinois.—The Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*) was considered a species of accidental occurrence in Illinois by Smith and Parmalee (Ill. St. Mus., Pop. Sci. Ser. 4:21, 1955). Their record was based on a single individual in white phase observed on 20 December 1953 and presumably the same bird again on 27 December 1953 at Arlington Heights, Cook Co. (Lukasik, Aud. Bull. 89:8, 1954). The only other published occurrence of this species in Illinois is an observation made on 28 December 1966 at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake Co. by R. Gustafson (Fawks, Aud. Bull. 140:6, 1966); no other details were submitted with the report. Russell (Aud. Bull. 144:13, 1967) concluded from the few records of this species, its confusing variability in plumage, and the possibility that observations could have been made on falconers' escaped birds that the Gyrfalcon should not be included on the hypothetical list of Illinois birds. Russell also mentioned that no specimens or photographs of this species were extant for Illinois.

On 3 November 1971, an immature Gyrfalcon was trapped by Ken Invergo (a licensed Illinois falconer), 9.7 km S Galena, Jo Daviess Co., Illinois (apparently this is the same bird reported by Kleen and Bush, Amer. Birds 26:71, 1972, and Buckley, Amer. Birds 26:569, 1972, although they listed the date of capture as 6 November 1971). Appearing in poor condition, the bird was kept under observation and died sometime later. Dr. William Halliwell, of the University of Missouri at Columbia, performed an autopsy on the bird and concluded that it died from arterial hepatitis. The specimen (Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv. No. FA-r-1) weighed 1679.6 g and contained little fat. Although no gonad measurements were included with the autopsy, the specimen is assumed to be a female according to the measurable sexual differences listed by Friedmann (U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 50:637, 1950). On the basis of the length of the fourth primary the specimen is assignable to the subspecies found widely in northern North America, *F. r. obsoletus*. The plumage represents the gray phase (dark variety) described by Friedmann (1950: 636) and there were no signs of molt. This constitutes the first specimen record for Illinois.

Prompted by the discovery of a specimen, we canvassed other licensed Illinois falconers and learned that the Gyrfalcon has been trapped in Illinois at least 3 other times (sex was judged on size by respective falconers): 4 October 1966, Spring Bluff Forest Preserve, Lake Co. by Ken Sterner (immature female in gray phase, weight 1524.1 g when trapped); 7 January 1973, 4.8 km SE Esmond, De Kalb Co. by Ron Kern (first-year haggard female in gray phase, weight 1959.5 g when trapped); and 12 October 1973, 3.2 km E Roscoe, Winnebago Co. by Jack Oar (immature male in gray phase, no weight taken). All trapped birds showed no signs of captivity and behaved in the manner typical of wild caught falcons. Photographs of the trapped birds have been deposited with the Section of Wildlife Research, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana. Additional sight records include one individual observed in February 1964 at Chatsworth, Livingston Co. by E. C. Fitch; one observed 8 October 1972 at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve, Lake Co., by E. C. Fitch and Ken Sterner; and one observed in December 1973, 3.2 km SW Polo, Ogle Co. by Roland Lindsay.

Although there were 3 Gyrfalcons recorded for Illinois in 1973, there is no indication that this was a major flight year for the entire Midwest. Gyrfalcons have never been reported from Cedar Grove Ornithological Station, Wisconsin (D. D. Berger, pers. comm.), and are sporadic in occurrence in Minnesota. Perhaps the preponderance of records in 1973 is a reflection of more intense trapping and observation during this particular time period.

In light of these Illinois records and its reported occurrence in Iowa (Musgrove, Iowa Bird Life 19:22-23, 1949), Missouri (Moore, Bluebird 16:1, 1949), northern Ohio (Mosely, Auk 60:598, 1943), and Wisconsin (Stoddard, Auk 40:325, 1923; Gromme, Auk 55:273-274, 1938; Black, Auk 58:254, 1941), the Gyrfalcon should perhaps be considered a rare transient and winter visitant in Illinois.

We are grateful to E. C. Fitch, Ken Invergo, Jack J. Oar, Roland Lindsay, and Ken Sterner for their valuable contributions of data and to Daniel D. Berger for his comments concerning Gyrfalcons in Wisconsin.—BROOKS M. BURR, *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana 61801*; and DAVID M. CURRENT, *202 S Dodson Drive, Urbana, IL 61801. Accepted 24 Oct. 1974.*

An encounter between a Turkey and a bullsnake.—At 08:40 on 31 May 1974 while making one of our spring-summer Rio Grande wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*) brood surveys in Brooks Co., Texas, we saw 2 adult female Turkeys on the ground under a motte of trees at approximately 30 m. We stopped our vehicle to observe the birds with binoculars to determine if they were accompanied by poults. No poults were seen. The peculiar behavior of one hen cautioned us to observe in more detail. She periodically picked up a snake in her beak and shook it back and forth. The Turkeys were frightened off when we got out of the vehicle in an attempt to photograph the event. The snake, a female bullsnake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), appeared dead, but its muscles were still quivering. The snake was 140 cm long and weighed 314.6 g.

We put the snake in our truck to take to the lab for necropsy. In approximately 20 min the snake began crawling around in the truck, and we killed it. A necropsy performed by Dr. J. L. Kiel at the Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine indicated the snake probably would not have died from the damage inflicted by the