

Other investigators have reported deaths of incubating Wood Duck hens in conjunction with nest predation, primarily by raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) (Grice and Rogers, Massachusetts Div. Fish and Game, Fed. Aid Proj. W-19-R, 1965; Cunningham, Southeast Assoc. Game and Fish Comm. 22:145-155, 1968; Beshears, Alabama Dept. Conserv. and Nat. Resour., Fed. Aid Proj. W-35, Job I-F, 1974). Only 1 instance of a black rat snake killing an incubating Wood Duck hen was found in the literature (Hester and Dermid, *The World of the Wood Duck*, J. P. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1973).

The 3 Wood Duck deaths attributed to black rat snakes in my study (1973-1975) represented 4% of all Wood Duck nests initiated (N = 76) on the study area. The death of an incubating hen has a greater potential impact on the population than the loss of a clutch or the loss of individual hatchlings because that hen can make no further contribution to the population. Black rat snake predation on incubating Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser hens and nests could have a significant impact on the reproductive success of populations using natural cavities in southeastern river swamp ecosystems.

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Sandhill Cranes nesting in Illinois.—On 24 May 1979 at 13:30, I flushed a pair of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) from a plowed field at Deer Lake, Antioch Township, Lake Co., Illinois. One bird flew a short distance away; the other walked towards me and stopped within 6 m of me. Both cranes were calling. The pair were brown, except for their gray necks and wing coverts. Two downy chicks accompanying the closer bird scurried away.

Deer Lake is a private hunt club consisting of 404 ha of open water, deciduous woods and marsh. The field in which the cranes were found was adjacent to an extensive cattail (*Typha* spp.) marsh. The owner of the property has noted the presence of a pair of cranes during the last 3 summers, but saw no signs of nesting (W. Brook, pers. comm.). Several Sandhill Cranes have also summered at Chain of Lakes State Park about 13 km southwest of Deer Lake, but again no actual evidence of nesting has been observed (D. Johnson, pers. comm.).

Although Sandhill Cranes were formerly common breeders in Illinois, my observations indicate the first definite nesting in the state since 1872. At that time a nest was found in Champaign County (Bohlen, *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Illinois*, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois, 1978:46).—JOEL GREENBERG, 922 Sumac Lane, Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056. *Accepted 7 Aug. 1979.*

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A Mallard × Mottled Duck hybrid.—Hybrids between Mallards (*Anas p. platyrhynchos*) and other species of *Anas*, are frequently found in the wild (Cockrum, *Wilson Bull.* 64:140-159, 1952; Gray, *Bird Hybrids, A Checklist with Bibliography*, Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, Bucks, England, 1958; Johnsgard, *Am. Midl. Nat.* 77:51-63, 1967). However, reports of crosses between a Mallard and Mottled Duck (*A. fulvigula maculosa*) are rare.