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Additional evidence of egg-moving behavior by female Gadwalls. —Johnson and Kirsch (*Wilson Bull.* 89:331–332, 1977) noted moving of eggs between nest bowls by a female Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) in North Dakota. This note documents additional evidence of such behavior and suggests that egg moving may be more frequent in this species than previously indicated.

During a study of the Gadwall in southern Manitoba, 188 females were trapped on the nest, using a modification of the automatic nest trap originally designed by Weller (J. Wildl. Manage. 21:456–458, 1957). From 1973 through 1975, 12 instances of egg moving were recorded in which the female moved all or portions of the original clutch from within the trap to another nest bowl outside (Table 1). Two instances involved moving of eggs in 2 successive trapping attempts.

In this study, moving of eggs appeared to be the result of an improper trapping technique at the nest-site. The capture method relied on the correct orientation of the trap entrance to the most frequently used approach path of the hen to the nest bowl. Once inside, the female tripped the door release and was captured. However, the placement of the closed portion of the trap over the path probably resulted in the accidental release of the door while the female was still outside the trap. I suspect that the female then moved the eggs by pulling them through the 5.1 × 5.1 cm (2 × 2 in) mesh of the trap with the underside of its bill. Most of the eggs were removed through the mesh of the trap cylinder. However, 2 cases were recorded in which the female appeared to roll the eggs out of the open door. In both instances, the female was captured after removing part of the clutch.

Eight Gadwall hens were captured from these nests and aged as yearlings (1 year old) or

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF EGG MOVING AND OTHER NEST DATA FOR FEMALE GADWALLS IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA, 1973–1975

Year	Age of female	Clutch-size	Stage of incubation	No. of eggs moved
1973	Yearling ^a	8	19	8
	Yearling ^a	8	20	8
	Adult	7	18	7
	Yearling	10	20	2
	Unknown	8	4	2
	Adult	10	14	10
1974	Adult	7	25 ^c	1
	Adult	12	8	6
	Unknown ^b	9	21	9
	Unknown ^b	9	22	9
	Adult	8	24 ^d	8
1975	Yearling	9	22	9

^a Same female.

^b Same female.

^c One egg in the original nest bowl was partially hatched.

^d All eggs were pipped.

adults (2 years old or older) (Blohm, M.S. thesis, Univ. Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1977). Eggs were aged to the nearest day to determine the stage of incubation when moved. No relationship appeared to exist between clutch-size, stage of incubation, or age of the female and the occurrence of egg moving in this study. Lorenz and Tinbergen (*Z. Tierpsychol.* 2:1-29, 1938), Sowsls (Prairie Ducks, Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Wildl. Manage. Inst., Washington, D.C., 1955:101), Oring (*Auk* 81:88-89, 1964) and Prevet and Prevet (*Auk* 90:202-204, 1973) have observed other species of waterfowl retrieving displaced eggs with the ventral portion of the bill. I suspect that this behavior is not uncommon in the Gadwall, especially in situations in which it is necessary to move all or portions of the clutch short distances because of natural or man-made disturbances.

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Mallard using moving vehicles for predator avoidance.—Distraction displays are often-cited adaptations for predator avoidance in a variety of vertebrate organisms (see Eibl-Eibesfeldt, *Ethology—the Biology of Behavior*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., New York, New York, 1975). Examples of such behavior commonly relate to use of body appurtenances (i.e., feather-ruffling, break-away tail) and less often to use of extrinsic environmental features. We report here an apparent attempt by a duck to use moving vehicles as a distraction during predator avoidance.

In mid-afternoon on 21 January 1977, we were driving south-west on Interstate Highway 90 about 12 km NE of Vantage, Grant Co., Washington, when a female Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) appeared suddenly over the left front of the car, flying about 2 m above the roadway. We were traveling 80-85 km/h when the duck passed us rocking slightly from side-to-side as if preparing to land on the roadway. Within 2 or 3 sec a Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*, age and sex unknown) stooped at the duck from a position above and to the left rear. This stoop was aborted and the Mallard continued flying along the highway 1-4 m above the surface, weaving left to right between several cars, very close to the vehicles. The falcon appeared to hit the duck during the second stoop because the duck tumbled to the ground on the right side of the highway. This attack occurred about 2 km from the point where we initially saw the duck.

The downed duck moved to unmowed roadside vegetation dominated by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) during which time the falcon made several more stoops without contacting the duck. As we approached and stopped near where the duck had gone down, the falcon flew across the highway from the downed duck and perched on a high voltage pole about 80 m away. We left the car and walked perhaps 15 or 20 m when the Mallard flushed from under a big sagebrush and flew NE with no visible injuries or flight impairment. While we looked for the duck, the falcon left its perch in an unknown direction and did not initiate another attack before the duck flew out of our sight.