Wilson Bull., 94(2), 1982, p. 215

Clapper Rail preys on Savannah Sparrow.—At 14:00 on 24 April 1980, while conducting field studies at the Tijuana Salt Marsh, California (N32°30′, W117°07′), we heard high pitched calls coming repeatedly from a small clump of cordgrass (*Spartina foliosa*) about 30 m away. We then saw an adult Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris levipes*) running along the edge of the cordgrass being pursued and attacked by two scolding Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*). The rail was carrying a small bird in its bill. The rail then ran back into the cordgrass cover, but upon our closer approach flushed without its prey. At the site from which the rail flushed, we found an adult Savannah Sparrow lying motionless but still alive. It had fresh puncture wounds in its rump and sides. Age of the sparrow was based on the presence of a full set of worn primary feathers and bright yellow lores. We replaced the injured sparrow and returned to our original vantage point for 15 min; the rail did not return to its prey.

Interaction between this rail and this sparrow is not surprising since their range and habitat widely overlap in coastal California (Wilbur, Am. Birds 33:251, 1979; Massey, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, S. California Ocean Stud. Consort. of the Calif. State Univ. and Colleges, 1979).

Clapper Rails have a diverse diet composed mainly of live invertebrates and small fish found in marshes. Oney (J. Wildl. Manage. 15:106–107, 1951) and Martin et al. (A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits, McGraw-Hill, New York, New York, 1951) reported crabs, molluscs, insects, snails, fish, worms and various marsh plants found in Clapper Rails collected on the East Coast. On the west coast, Moffit (Condor 43:270–273, 1941) reported that crayfish were the principle foods of 32 Clapper Rails taken along the Colorado River and in Mexico. However, in addition to other food items they also reported the presence of feathers in two of their samples. A Clapper Rail attacked a Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) in a mist net in New Jersey (Spendelow and Jeffrey, J. Field Ornith. 51(2):175–176, 1980). It is not clear whether the Clapper Rail was taking the mist-netted birds for food or whether this was a territorial response. Meanley (King Rail, N. Am. Fauna No. 67, 1969) also found some feathers in stomach samples from the closely related King Rail (*Rallus elegans*), along with vertebrae of a female Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Aside from these reports, the extent of Clapper Rail interaction with other bird species, particularly as predator, is still poorly documented.—PAUL D. JORGENSEN AND HOWARD L. FERGUSON, *Code 1843, Natural Resources, Bldg. 3, Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, California 92135.* *Accepted 15 June 1981.*

Wilson Bull., 94(2), 1982, pp. 215–216

Commensal feeding of Little Blue Herons with manatees.—Symbiotic feeding of egrets and herons with large terrestrial vertebrates is well known (see review by Kushlan, Natl. Audubon Soc. Res. Rept. No. 7, 1978a). Kushlan (Auk 95:677–681, 1978b) has also observed Little Blue Herons (*Hydranassa caerulea*) feeding commensally with White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) and has suggested that many associations of water birds may also be commensal. This report describes the behavior of one or more Little Blue Herons associating with manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) in the St. Johns River near DeLand, Volusia Co., Florida.

On 23 January 1978, a Little Blue Heron was observed on a raft of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) while a manatee was feeding on the hyacinth nearby. The manatee surfaced 21 times over 19 min before leaving the area. Each time the manatee created a disturbance

in the vegetation the heron immediately moved toward the manatee. The heron peered at openings created in the vegetation by the manatee, and made several feeding strikes. It could not be determined how many strikes were made or if any were successful.

On 13 February 1978, similar behavior was seen on another hyacinth raft 400 m from the original observation site. On this occasion, a Little Blue Heron was noted catching small fish at manatee-created openings by hopping and striking, or by using the stand-and-wait method described by Meyerriecks (Nutt. Ornithol. Club No. 2, 1960). The heron made 27 strikes, 21 of which were successful (78%) during 48 min. By contrast, another Little Blue Heron, not associated with a manatee, was observed at the same time on a hyacinth raft 100 m away using only the stand-and-wait method. It made 16 strikes within 45 min, 7 of which were successful (44%). A Little Blue Heron was briefly observed investigating manatee-created disturbances in the same area on 14 and 17 February 1978, but on both occasions the manatee departed after 5 min and no feeding strikes by the heron were seen.

Feeding in association with manatees may have increased the heron's feeding success. The disturbance caused by the manatee surfacing and grasping plants may have flushed out fish or invertebrates associated with the hyacinths. Kushlan (1978b) reported that Little Blue Herons in commensal association with White Ibis preyed on small fish flushed by the movements of the ibis. Strike rates were higher for herons feeding commensally with ibis than for herons feeding alone, but strike success rate was the same in both situations, suggesting that prey was more available, but not more vulnerable to the commensally associating herons.

While manatees are not abundant in Florida, a number frequently feed at these hyacinth rafts on the St. Johns River and thus present a localized opportunity for commensal feeding by the herons, particularly since Little Blue Herons are noted for specialized and opportunistic feeding behaviors (Kushlan, 1978a).

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Comparison of the nest-site distraction displays of Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch.—It is the purpose of this paper to describe an unusual distraction display at the nest-site by the Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) and to compare it to the very similar display of the White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*). Observations reveal that these nest-site distraction displays are neither "injury feigning" (formerly ascribed to chickadees) nor "death feigning" (apparently a lapsus, ascribed to or at least implied for nuthatches). Works on other parids and sittids were reviewed to learn the general characteristics of nest-site distraction displays reported in these closely related families. Verification, re-description and some undescribed aspects of the nest-site displays of both chickadees and nuthatches are reported.

Observations were made on nesting nuthatches over a five-year period (1976–1980). All the distraction displays were made to red (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) and gray (*Sciurus carolinensis*) squirrels and eastern chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*). All observed displays (with one possible exception) occurred within 2 m of a nest cavity situated about 5 m above ground in a red oak (*Quercus rubra*) outside my window, in Stevens Point, Portage Co., Wisconsin.