from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Canada, and Brandon University.—RICHARD C. ROUNDS AND HUGH L. MUNRO, *Dept. Geography, Brandon Univ., Brandon, Manitoba, R7A 6A9 Canada.* *Accepted 5 Mar. 1981.*

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Interspecific plumage similarity: the Mockingbird and Loggerhead Shrike.—Interspecific deception may be widespread in animals. For example, avian vocal mimics often produce sounds similar to those of large, aggressive or predatory species, and such mimicry might dissuade rivals from living in that locality by making it appear to be inhabited by predators and/or competitors (Rechten, Anim. Behav. 26:305–306, 1978). We suggest that the Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) exhibits plumage similarity with a predator, the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). The Mockingbird looks very much like a shrike, the two species being of similar size, although the shrike is somewhat chunkier. Even Robbins' bird guide states that the shrike is "often confused with the mockingbird" (Robbins et al., Birds of North America, Golden Press, New York, New York, 1966). Plumage similarities include gray back, lighter breast, white patches on the wings and dark gray tail edged with white. The chief differences are more subtle: the shrike has a black line through the eye and a hooked bill. Both commonly use elevated perches in open habitat. Hailman (Wilson Bull. 72:106–107, 1960) observed Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) mobbing a Mockingbird and suggested that the swallows mistook the Mockingbird for a shrike.

The similarity between these two species might be considered a case of mimicry in which selection favored Mockingbirds that looked like the predaceous shrike. Almost complete range overlap occurs for the two species. However, outside the shrike's range other mockingbird species occur that are very similar in plumage to *M. polyglottos*, e.g., Tropical Mockingbird (*M. gilvus*), Patagonian Mockingbird (*M. patagonica*) and White-banded Mockingbird (*M. triurus*). Therefore, we think that the similarity between *M. polyglottos* and *L. ludovicianus* is not a result of selection for plumage resemblance.

The Mockingbird is well known for its pugnacity in defending year-round territories (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 1948). Apparently, Mockingbirds face intense interspecific competition in winter with other frugivores and sometimes respond aggressively to them (Moore, Behav. Ecol. Sociobiol. 3:173–176, 1978). No studies have investigated interspecific competition during the breeding season. We hypothesize that despite the origins of plumage similarity of Loggerhead Shrikes and Mockingbirds, the Mockingbird may benefit from the similarity because other species are sometimes deceived by the resemblance, reducing the probability of their remaining in an area so populated with "predators." Perhaps other cases of resemblance that have been considered mimicry may simply be the outcome of convergent evolution.

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Head wind promotes skimming in Laughing Gulls.—The evolutionary origin of skimming behavior in skimmers (Rynchopidae) such as the Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) is uncertain. Observations of the occurrence and conditions promoting similar behavior in