

21–26 and 28–29 June. By 30 June the young (about 14 days old) were able to excrete clear of the nest and its supports and we never again observed this adult consume feces.

Most young raptors are able to eject feces clear of the nest. Ellis (Wildl. Monogr. 70, 1979) stated that adult female Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nibble their young to remove feces and other debris. Snyder (Living Bird 13:73–97, 1974) reported that parent Swallow Tailed Kites (*Elanoides forficatus*) at one nest continually covered the young's feces which had not cleared the nest with vegetation. We found no other accounts of raptors removing feces from a nest or its supports.

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**First record of a Bald Eagle nest in West Virginia.**—In May 1981, George Hall notified the Raptor Information Center of a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nest located along the south branch of the Potomac River near the town of Moorefield, West Virginia. He reported that a pair of Bald Eagles spent the winter in the area and began nest building in early February. We contacted the caretaker of the property and arranged to examine the nest.

The nest was at a height of 12 m in a red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and appeared much smaller than nests of this species observed by the authors in the Chesapeake Bay region. The small size (1.5 m in diameter by 0.5 m deep) suggested that this was the first year the eagles nested at this site. The nest tree is on a steep bank, making it possible to look down into the nest. On 16 June 1981 the nest contained two eaglets which, because of their size and plumage, appeared to be approximately 7–8 weeks of age.

Although there are numerous sight records of Bald Eagles in West Virginia, we have found no previous nesting records. Bald Eagles have been sighted during two previous summers approximately 25 km south of this nest-site near Franklin, Pendleton Co. (Phillips, Redstart 47(1):46, 1980).

We thank M. R. Fuller and W. S. Clark for comments, G. A. Hall for his review and comments and for the initial information which led to the verification of this nest, and to Barry Levaas for reporting the sighting and for leading us to the nest-site.—MAURICE N. LEFRANC, JR., THOMAS A. PIERSON, AND MICHAEL G. MAY, *Raptor Information Center, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., N. W., Washington, D.C. 20036*. Accepted 14 Dec. 1981.

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**Osprey spreads wings after fishing.**—Other than cormorants (*Phalacrocorax* spp.) and anhingas (*Anhinga* spp.), few birds that wet their plumage during foraging show maintenance behavior such as wing spreading and shaking (Rijke, J. Exper. Biol. 48:185–189, 1968). Whereas several authors report that Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) shake their plumage after

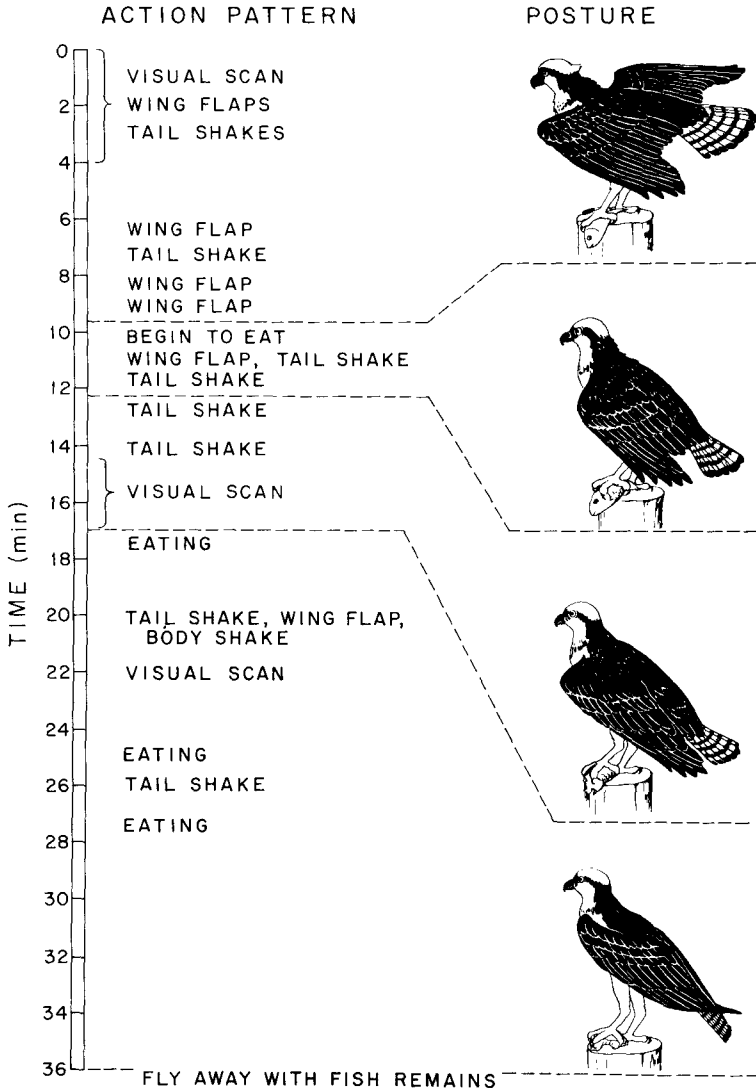


FIG. 1. Time line of the Osprey's spread-wing posture and associated behavior, observations begin at the top with time zero.

they dive for prey (Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 167, Pt. 1, 1937:367; Sprunt, North American Birds of Prey, Harper and Bros., New York, New York, 1955:129) none report wing spreading. In the spring of 1980, I observed an Osprey do so.

Observations began at 16:15 EST in clear weather at the southern tip of the Everglades National Park in Dade County, Florida, when an Osprey carried a fish, probably a mullet

(Mugilidae), to an old pier piling 90 m SE of my position. Using 7× binoculars, I noted that the bird was wet about the head, neck, and breast, although I could not judge the wetness of the wings due to their position. A minute later, the Osprey began a sequence of postures and actions similar to those of wet anhingas and cormorants (Clark, *Auk* 86:136–139, 1969). A detailed, running account of the wing positions and associated behavior is illustrated in Fig. 1.

It may be that the Osprey's posture was not due to wet plumage but to some other cause. One possibility is that the bird was hunched over its prey to protect it from piracy by other predatory birds. Bent (1937) described an Osprey which, upon the arrival of its mate, spread its wings and tail and crouched over its catch until the offender flew off. However, save for an immature Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*), there were no other birds in the immediate vicinity of the piling nor any other predatory birds in the general bay area that I could see. Also, the spread-wing posture was held for more than 7 min before the arrival of the gull; therefore, a protective motivation does not seem likely.

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**Rough-winged Swallows scavenging adult midges.**—Wolinski (*Wilson Bull.* 92:121–122, 1980) reported Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) landing and feeding on fly larvae on dead fish on a Lake Huron beach. As this swallow seldom lands on the ground (see also Lunk, *Publ. Nuttall Ornithol. Club*, No. 4, 1962) this behavior probably represented opportunistic foraging in response to a temporary, high-density food source.

In the morning of 31 May 1980, for 10 min from ca. 5 m, I observed four Rough-winged Swallows standing on wet sand 0.5 m from the water's edge of Lake Manitoba (ca. 5 km west of Delta, Manitoba). The birds fed continuously on dead midges (Diptera: Chironomidae) that had washed ashore. I did not observe aggressive interactions by any individuals in the flock, despite their feeding within a few centimeters of each other.

Other swallow species are abundant summer residents and visitants in this area, but this is only the second time I have recorded *Stelgidopteryx* here in 7 years of work on passerine ecology. A juvenile was mist-netted on 9 August 1978. I have seen no other species of swallows taking dead midges or other insects in the manner described above, although I often have seen Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) picking up nesting material on this lake-shore.

Annually in this area, massive emergences of midges occur frequently from May through August (Busby and Sealy, *Can. J. Zool.* 57:1670–1681, 1979; Biermann, M.Sc. thesis, Univ. Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1980). In 1980, the first emergences transpired on 26 May and swarming adult midges were abundant until 6 June. Dead individuals were first noticed on the beach and elsewhere by 28 May.

Diptera comprise about 33% of the diet of *Stelgidopteryx* (Beal, *USDA Bull.* 619, 1918; Bent, *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.* 179, 1942). However, as Wolinski (1980) pointed out, these insects are generally taken aerially. That the prey were dead and hence the swallows were scavenging (see McNicholl, *Can. Field-Nat.* 91:416, 1977) reveals a plasticity in this swallow's feeding that has not been reported previously. While the swallows fed on the dead midges, live midges swarmed only a few meters away. As I did not see the flock land, I do not know