

in Sabrosky et. al. (1989). Voucher specimens were deposited in the Univ. of Arkansas Museum of Entomology.

I recorded eight new host species for this parasitic genus of blow flies. In Arkansas, *P. deceptor* larvae were collected from Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*), Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*), and Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) nests. Larvae of *P. braueri* were collected from the nests of Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) and Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). Subcutaneous larvae of *P. braueri* were collected from Kentucky Warbler nestlings and from a single Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) fledgling. In Idaho, an unknown species of *Protocalliphora* larvae was collected from Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) nests and *P. metallica* and an unknown *Protocalliphora* species from MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) nests. Unknown species could not be identified due to damage incurred during transport. These appear to be the first records of *Protocalliphora* parasitism in these bird species.

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Observations of shorebird predation by snapping turtles in eastern Lake Ontario.

Accounts of snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) predation on birds other than waterfowl are rare. These include Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) (Alexander 1921), Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) and Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) (Street 1989), and the possible predation of a Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) chick (Fraser 1994).

The present observations were made at a freshwater dune ecosystem at the Nature Conservancy's El Dorado Beach Preserve in Jefferson County, New York. Thick, partially-submerged algal mats accumulate there annually in the shallow embayments of Lake Ontario. Large quantities of a green, filamentous algae (*Cladophora glomerata*) break off from underwater rocky substrates when the lake temperature exceeds 25°C, as in late summer (Vetterle 1976). The resulting offshore algal mats entrap invertebrates, including freshwater crustaceans, gastropods, and insects and some vertebrates such as small fish. This concen-

tration of food organisms is subject to predation by northern water snakes (*Nerodia sipedon*), painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*), snapping turtles, and many species of birds, especially migrating shorebirds.

On 7 August 1994 at 16:15 EST, a Semipalmated Sandpiper was observed being pulled underwater, through an algal mat. The captured sandpiper was peeping loudly with only its head visible above water. The nearby shorebirds (Semipalmated Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs) also vocalized excitedly. A Lesser Yellowlegs fluttered briefly above the site while vocalizing frenziedly. A large turtle's carapace was felt at the immediate location where the captured sandpiper was last observed; the turtle had presumably consumed the bird immediately. At 12:30 on 8 August 1994 another Semipalmated Sandpiper was pulled under the same algal mat by a snapping turtle. The bird was repeatedly pulled underwater, but resurfaced each time with its wings fully extended outward. This reaction made it difficult for the turtle to pull the bird through the algae. The event was photographed at the site. After I nudged the turtle's carapace with my foot, the turtle released the sandpiper. The bird quickly flew away, landed nearby, and began preening. The sandpiper shivered and preened for approximately 10 minutes, at which time it joined a close flock of feeding shorebirds. There was no visible damage to the bird.

At 12:25 on 11 August 1994 a large snapping turtle was observed crossing the sandy beach from an inland pond in order to enter the algal mat. The turtle was estimated to weigh between 10 and 15 kilograms, and had a carapace approximately 35 cm long. The shorebirds exhibited a distinct pattern of aggression in response to the fully exposed turtle. Three Black-bellied Plovers (*Pluvialis squatarola*) "escorted" the turtle closely. A Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) stood further back and vocalized. Six Lesser Yellowlegs called and periodically fluttered in the air above the turtle. The remaining shorebirds (130–135 Semipalmated Sandpipers, four Sanderlings [*Calidris alba*], four Semipalmated Plovers [*Charadrius semipalmatus*], and one Spotted Sandpiper [*Actitis macularia*]) remained in a tight, distant group until the turtle was submerged under the algae. Within 15 min, the birds resumed normal feeding activity in the vicinity of the submerged turtle. It was later observed that there were two snapping turtles under the algal mat.

At 10:00 on 13 August 1994 a Lesser Yellowlegs was observed being pulled under the algae, with only its head exposed. Three other Lesser Yellowlegs were frantically peeping and fluttering above the victim. I again waded into the algae and nudged a large snapping turtle, which released the bird. The yellowlegs flew nearby, preened, and apparently had no damage done to its body or legs. It soon joined a feeding flock of shorebirds and could be identified by the algae and duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) remaining on its undertail coverts and legs.

It appears that individual snapping turtles can become efficient seasonal predators of shorebirds. Contrary to popular assumptions, even large snapping turtles did not rely entirely on strong jaw musculature to capture prey, but instead displayed a furtive hunting tactic. The delicate legs of those birds that escaped were not visibly damaged by the turtles' sharp, heavy mandibles, as might otherwise be expected. Populations of shorebirds, which may seem to be unlikely prey for sluggish snapping turtles, can be reduced during migration when feeding in areas where the turtles occur. Three confirmed events of snapping turtle predation on shorebirds, at the same site and within six days, represent a potential impact on migratory shorebird numbers.

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Erratum

The paper entitled "Gray Flycatcher predation on a hummingbird," in *Wilson Bulletin* 107:565–567, actually refers to observations of the Gray Kingbird. Although the correct scientific name is given, the substitution of "flycatcher" for "kingbird" escaped two referees, a proofreader, this editor, and (apparently) the author.