

more vocal than species that live in open rivers. The broad-snouted caiman is essentially a palustrine and not a riverine species (Verdade and Sarkis-Gonçalves. *In press. In Larriera and Verdade [eds.], Conservación y Manejo de los Crocodylia de America Latina*. Vol. 2. FEALQ, Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brazil), whereas the American alligator lives in both open river and swamps. Notwithstanding, the behavior described above suggests that *Caiman latirostris* presents a less elaborate courtship and less vocal behavior than the American alligator.

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CAIMAN LATIROSTRIS (Broad-snouted Caiman). **THERMOREGULATION.** It has been demonstrated that increasing body temperature (fever) is a common response to infection among crocodylians (Lang 1987. *In G. J. W. Weeb, C. Manolis and P. J. Whitehead [eds.], Wildlife Management: Crocodiles and Alligators*, Surrey Beatty and Sons, Chipping Norton, New South Wales. 552 pp.). Deakins (1980. *In J. B. Murphy and J. T. Collins [eds.], Reproductive Biology and Diseases of Captive Reptiles*, SSAR, Lawrence, Kansas. 277 pp.) reported that parasitic infections in snakes can be treated by increasing environmental temperature. On the other hand, decreasing temperatures often exacerbates viral and bacterial infections, making reptiles more susceptible to disease (Marcus 1980. *In Murphy and Collins, op. cit.*). This is the first report of fever behavior in *Caiman latirostris*.

Observations were made at the breeding facility of "Granja la Esmeralda," Santa Fe, Argentina, a naturalistic facility comprised of large ponds enclosed by fence. The facility is operated for educational and research purposes (not production), so animal densities are kept low. At the beginning of the breeding season for broad-snouted caimans in Santa Fe (31°42'S, 60°44'W; December through March), females and males struggle for a suitable place in the breeding pool. In December 1997, a young female (ca. 1.5 m) sustained an injury to her back and legs while fighting with a larger female. After the fight, the young female behaved normally, but two days later colleagues and I observed that the caiman's wounds were inflamed and showed signs of infection and, later, necrosis. At this point, she increased the time spent basking. At noon and early evening, when the other animals in the enclosure were in shaded water, she was observed basking; this behavior is consistent with fever behavior as reported by Lang (1987, *op. cit.*). She basked continuously, including the hottest part of the day (ca. 1600 h). Body temperature was not measured, but temperature of water and shade in the pool was recorded during the breeding season with two calibrated Hobo Temp Data Loggers (Onset Computer Corp., Pocasset, Massachusetts, USA). Average temperatures were: 25.8°C (water) and 24.8°C (air). Temperature differences between shade and sun averaged 10°C during the day. Lang (1987, *op. cit.*) reported that the mean difference in body temperature between infected animals and controls (mean of 30.1°C) was 4.9°C with a maximum difference of 7.4°C. The young female of this report continued her heat-seeking behavior for 10 days and then resumed typical behavior, acting similar to the rest of the animals of the enclosure.

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LACERTILIA

CYCLURA NUBILA NUBILA (Cuban Iguana). **CARRION FEEDING.** West Indian iguanas of the genus *Cyclura* feed almost exclusively on vegetation (Alberts [ed.] 2000. West Indian Iguanas: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. 111 pp.; Auffenberg 1982. *In Rand and Burghardt [eds.], Iguanas of the World: Their Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation*. Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, New Jersey. 472 pp.; Wiewandt 1977. Ecology, Behavior, and Management of the Mona Island Ground Iguana, *Cyclura stejnegeri*. Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Cornell University. 338 pp.). Animal matter typically constitutes less than 5% of the diet of *Cyclura*, consisting primarily of slow moving arthropods, such as lepidopteran larvae, and other prey that are easily captured (e.g., Wiewandt 1977, *op. cit.*). Predation of vertebrates is not known in *Cyclura*, but feeding on vertebrate carrion (fish and birds) has been described for *C. carinata carinata* in the Turks and Caicos Islands (Iverson 1979. Bull. Florida State Mus., Biol. Sci. 24:175-358). Here, we report observations of vertebrate carrion feeding for *C. nubila nubila* at the United States Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

At 1030 h on 23 July 2000, three of us (GPG, TDG, and ACA) observed an adult female *C. n. nubila* (ca. 35 cm SVL) crossing the Feline Trail Road carrying a dead bird in its jaws (Fig. 1). The iguana was followed and observed for fifteen minutes. During this time, the iguana stopped several times to feed on the carcass. Each time, the iguana grasped the bird in the edge of its jaws and shook its head to tear loose some feathers and presumably flesh, which were swallowed. After the fourth such feeding bout, the iguana was chased away before it could pick up the bird again so that the carcass could be examined and identified. The bird was identified by one of us (MAH) as a nestling mourning dove, *Zenaida macroura*. Due to the condition and odor of the carcass, it was clear that the bird had been dead for at least a day. Iverson



FIG. 1. Adult female *Cyclura nubila nubila* with a dead *Zenaida macroura* in its jaws.