

New Mexico, and a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Texas (Pierce et al. 2016, *op. cit.*). Knowledge on the ecology and natural history of *P. gorzugi* is extremely limited, and most of what is known about *P. gorzugi* is inferred from the closely related species *P. concinna* (Lovich and Ennen 2013. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 34:11–23), prior to being elevated to a full species by Ernst (1990. *Cat. Am. Amph. Rept.* 461:1–2). Additionally, a limited range, elusive behavior, and suspected declines further contribute to the paucity of information on the natural history of *P. gorzugi*. Little is known about *P. gorzugi* predation, but suggested predators of hatchlings include mammals, ravens, and large wading birds (Ernst and Lovich 2009, *op. cit.*). Here, we report an additional predator of *P. gorzugi*.

On 16 May 2019, two of us (APB, DRD) observed an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) along San Felipe Creek in Blue Hole Park, Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas, USA (29.36913°N, 100.88480°W; WGS 84), with a juvenile *P. gorzugi* (ca. 5 cm carapace length) in its beak. We observed the heron manipulate the juvenile *P. gorzugi* in its beak for ca. 3 min before approaching, causing the heron to fly to the opposite shore of San Felipe Creek, still holding the *P. gorzugi*. When we approached a second time, the heron flew out of sight, again still holding the juvenile *P. gorzugi*. It remains unclear if the heron was ultimately able to consume the juvenile *P. gorzugi*, which appeared dead by the time the heron flew off. We used 10× magnification binoculars to view this interaction and confirm the identification of the turtle. Yellow-crowned Night Herons are generalist predators and are known to consume various crustaceans, arachnids, insects, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, including the turtles *Malaclemys terrapin* (Riegner 1982. *Colonial Waterbirds* 5:173–176) and *Sternotherus odoratus* (Niethammer and Kaiser 1983. *Colonial Waterbirds* 6:148–153). Wading birds are recognized as important predators of turtles, especially hatchlings (Janzen et al. 2000. *J. Evol. Biol.* 13:947–954), and to our knowledge, this is the first direct observation of avian predation on juvenile *P. gorzugi*.

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PSEUDEMYS GORZUGI (Rio Grande Cooter). PREDATION.

Pseudemys gorzugi is a large freshwater turtle species found throughout south and west Texas and southeastern New Mexico, USA and northeastern Mexico (Ernst and Lovich 2009. *Turtles of the United States and Canada*. Second Edition. The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. xii + 827 pp.; Pierce et al. 2016. *In* Rhodin et al. [eds.], *Conservation Biology of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises: A Compilation Project of the IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group*, pp. 100.1–100.12). The conservation status of this species is currently undergoing evaluation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2015. *Fed. Reg.* 80:37568–37579) and is currently listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/species/18459/97425928>; 29 Aug 2019), state-threatened in