



FIG. 3. *Gopherus polyphemus* biting the leg of an *Athene cunicularia floridana* after the owl had attacked the tortoise.

was a defensive behavior towards the tortoise, which could have approached the burrow (as seen in the previously described beneficial interaction).

What we can conclude from these two sets of observations is that these two “ecosystem engineers” can interact with each other in a number of possible ways with various ecological outcomes, a subject ripe for further investigation.

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***PSEUDEMYX GORZUGI* (Rio Grande Cooter). HATCHLING MOVEMENT.** *Pseudemys gorzugi* is a riverine emydid turtle native to New Mexico and Texas, USA. This species is listed as near-threatened globally (Van Dijk 2011. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species), as threatened by the state of New Mexico, and of greatest conservation concern in Texas. This turtle's life history is incompletely known within its limited range (Ernst and Lovich 2009. *Turtles of the United States and Canada*. Second edition. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 827 pp.). Studying the ecology of hatchling and juvenile freshwater turtles is challenging (Micheli-Campbell et al. 2013. *Freshw. Biol.* 58:2253–2263), and data on these life stages in *P. gorzugi* remain notably scarce.

Previous studies revealed that adult *P. gorzugi* exhibited a relatively sedentary lifestyle, with a maximum observed home range of 300 m (Painter 1993. New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, unpubl. report to U.S. BLM, Carlsbad Resource District, 27 pp.). In 2016, we surveyed freshwater turtles along the Black River, New Mexico, using baited hoop nets. We set 50 traps for six days along each of two adjacent ~300-m stretches of the river separated by a county road (11–17 and 17–23 July), resulting in approximately 300 trap-days per stretch. Upon capture, turtles were measured, marked, and released at the point of capture. This allowed us to measure short-term movement patterns of *P. gorzugi*. We captured 35 unique hatchlings/juveniles; 6 were recaptured once, and 2 other individuals were recaptured twice. Based on recapture data, hatchlings traveled $27 \text{ m} \pm 6.5 \text{ m}$, ranging from 0–51 m weekly. Hatchlings that were originally caught on the first stretch of the river were never recaptured on the second stretch the following week. This is the first documented observation of movement patterns of *P. gorzugi* hatchlings. This

research was approved by the landowner, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Permit Authorization No. 3621) and Eastern New Mexico University IACUC (approval #03-02/2016). This work was supported in part by the Share with Wildlife Program at New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and State Wildlife Grant T-32-4, #11.

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***PSEUDEMYX NELSONI* (Florida Red-Bellied Cooter) and *PSEUDEMYX* SP. ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS IN MEXICO.**

The freshwater turtle genus *Pseudemys* comprises about eight species restricted to the Atlantic and Gulf drainages of eastern North America from Massachusetts, USA, to Tamaulipas, Mexico (Ernst and Lovich 2009. *Turtles of the United States and Canada*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 827 pp.). *Pseudemys nelsoni* occurs in a variety of lentic freshwater habitats including ponds, reservoirs, ditches, canals, marshes, springs, spring runs, creeks, and rivers from the Okefenokee Swamp and Cumberland Island, Georgia to the southern Everglades, with an outlying occurrence in the Apalachicola Region of the Florida Panhandle (Jackson 2010. *Chelon. Res. Monogr.* 5:041.1–041.8.).

During a larger study of the population structure of *Trachemys venusta* from 2013 to 2015, we observed two *Pseudemys* turtles on multiple occasions in two isolated ponds in a region of southeastern Mexico where the genus has not, to our knowledge, been previously reported. As part of this effort we surveyed a freshwater cenote complex (Cenote A) in tropical forest northwest of Tulum, Quintana Roo, Mexico (20.2464°N, 87.4640°W, WGS84; 11 m elev.). The cenote is recessed $\geq 5 \text{ m}$ below the ground surface and the turtles within it may be mostly confined from terrestrial egress by steep walls. We also surveyed a more open cenote 3.9 km to the northwest (Cenote B; 20.2742°N, 87.4864°W, WGS84; 5 m elev.). The water surface of this cenote is more level with the surrounding upland than the first site; turtles can clearly enter and exit the pond unrestricted. Cenote B is adjacent to a larger



FIG. 1. Male *Pseudemys nelsoni* observed 29 January 2014 at Cenote A, Quintana Roo, Mexico.