



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

Jeff Coakley

LOYDS, VOID, and DECOYED

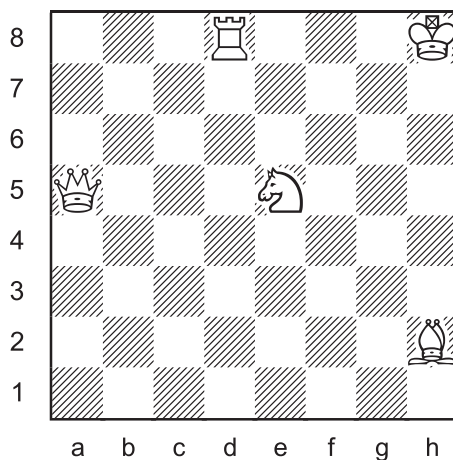
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Life in puzzling times. Chess in puzzling rhymes. Welcome to the cafe.
Please sit wherever you like. A waiter will be right over.



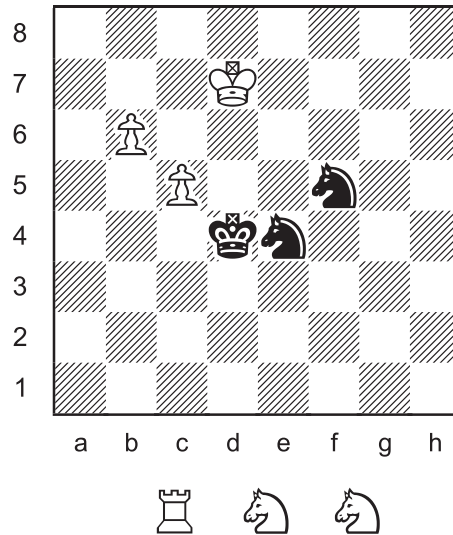
Triple Loyd 74



Place the black king on the board so that:

- Black is in checkmate.
- Black is in stalemate.
- White has mate in 1.

Inverted Loyd 49



Place a white rook and two knights
on the board so that White has mate in 1.

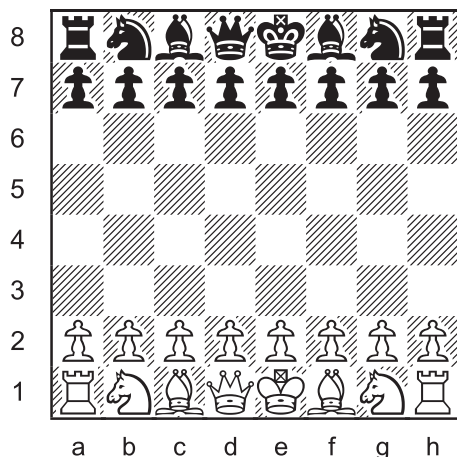


Canadian Goose decoy, Prince Edward Island

Canadian geese (*Branta canadensis*) live throughout Canada and the northern United States. Known for their impressive flying V-formations, they are frequently seen in large numbers at parks and near water in urban areas. Unfortunately, their loud honks, prolific doo-drops, and bold behaviour have led many people to consider them pests.

The empty space within and between atoms, the mystery of the infinite void. It makes chess seem so simple. The goal in the following puzzle is to create a *bishopless void*.

Synthetic Game 39



Compose a game that ends with all bishops captured before White's 6th move.
Five moves by each side, no bishops left on the board.

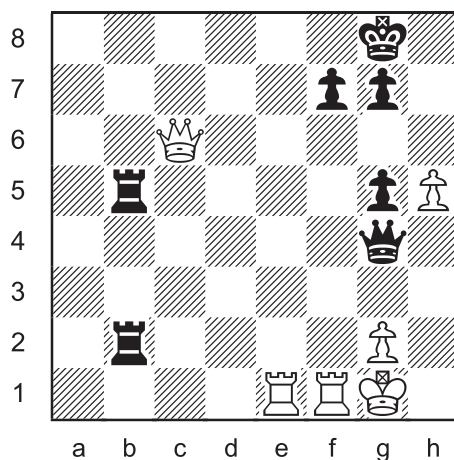


There are over 4 million Canadian geese in North America. With a life expectancy of 10 to 25 years, these big birds have wingspans up to 180 cm (6 feet), and an average weight of 4 kg (8½ pounds).

Sometimes called “the roast beef of the skies”, the geese are popular targets for hungry hunters. Wielding rifles, fielding *decoys*.

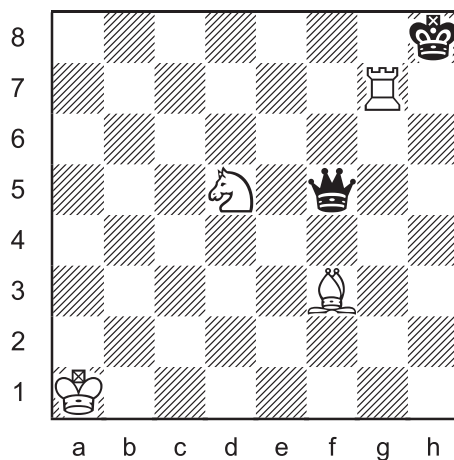
It doesn't happen often on the *Puzzling Side*, but occasionally we cross over to the "normal side of chess". The excuse this time is a shortage of interesting words that rhyme with 'loyd' and 'void'. Rather than write about tabloids, trapezoids, or thyroids, I decided to use two tactical exercises from my next instructional book. Hopefully the *decoyed* kings will be enjoyed.

Decoy Mate



White to mate in 3

Decoy Study



White to win



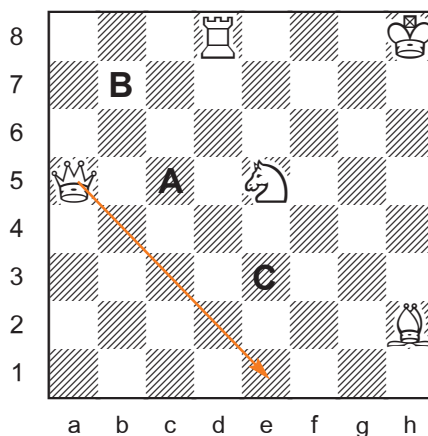
SOLUTIONS

All problems by J. Coakley, *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2018).

PDF hyperlinks. You can advance to the solution of any puzzle by clicking on the underlined title above the diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution diagram.

Archives. Past columns and a detailed index of problem-types and composers are available in the *Puzzling Side of Chess* archives.

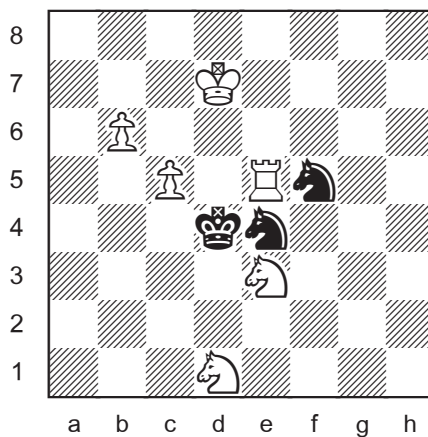
Triple Loyd 74



- A. Kc5#
- B. Kb7=
- C. Ke3 (Qe1#)

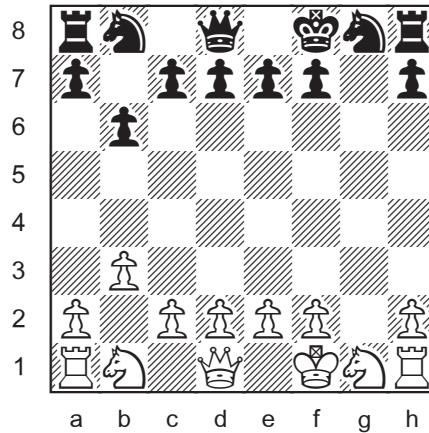
No solutions on the edge of the board. A triple loyd rarity.

Inverted Loyd 49



Rd5, Nd1, Ne3 were added.
1.Rd5#

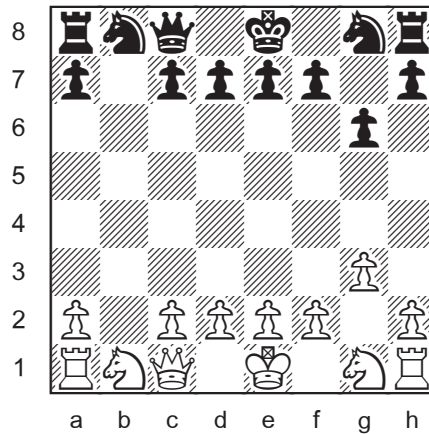
Synthetic Game 39



1.b3 b6 2.Bb2 Bb7 3.Bxg7 Bxg2 4.Bxf8 Bxf1 5.Kxf1 Kxf8

Five turns each, zero B's.

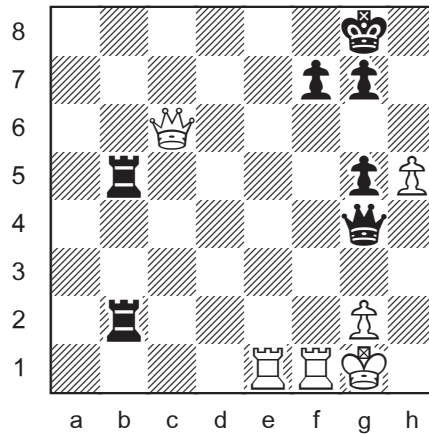
The solution is not unique. Either or both of the b-pawns could have advanced two squares. A reflection of the same game also works. See diagram below.



1.g3 g6 2.Bg2 Bg7 3.Bxb7 Bxb2 4.Bxc8 Bxc1 5.Qxc1 Qxc8



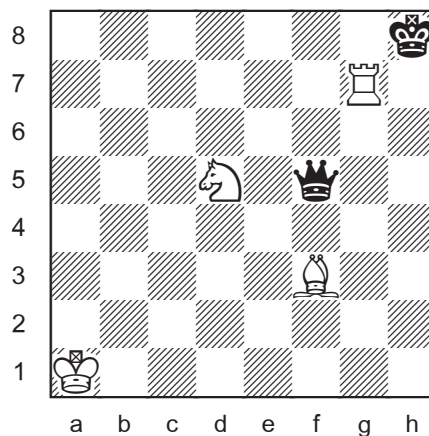
Decoy Mate



1.Re8+ Kh7 2.Qh6+! The decoy.
2...Kxh6 3.Rh8#
2...gxh6 3.Rxf7#

Based on a combination by world champion Magnus Carlsen, from the final playoff game against Sergey Karjakin in their 2016 title match.

Decoy Study



1.Rg8+! Decoy 1, the only way to win. If you know how to mate with bishop and knight.

1...Kxg8 2.Ne7+ Kf7 3.Nxf5

1...Kh7 2.Be4! Decoy 2. Pin to fork.

2...Qxe4 3.Nf6+ Kh6 4.Nxe4

2...Kxg8 3.Bxf5

Until next time!

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