

to nightlighting in the caprimulgids discussed. Sprunt's (op. cit.) report on capturing Chuck-will's-widows suggests that local conditions may be important. Bent's (*U. S. Natl. Mus., Bull.* 176, 1940) statement that Poor-wills (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) were especially tame and unsuspecting implies variations in shyness among the caprimulgids, perhaps size-related. Labisky (*Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv. Biol. Notes*, No. 62, 1968) found that Greater Prairie Chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*) were much harder to capture by nightlighting than Ring-necked Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*).

Although we found nightlighting satisfactory in capturing Common Night-hawks, potential caprimulgid nightlighters should be aware of the experiences of Jenkinson and Mengel and possibly others who did not publish negative results.

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Roadrunner takes Birds from Mist Net.—The Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) is seldom outmatched for boldness and adaptability. A demonstration of these traits occurred late in the morning of 3 January 1975, in my backyard on the outskirts of Stillwater, Oklahoma. The bird was photographed in the act of taking a dead female Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) caught in a furled mist net. The Cardinal had been caught accidentally before dawn and was dead when I discovered it. Noting the condition of the bird, I had delayed its removal until ready to fill the bird feeders later in the morning.

The roadrunner is a very infrequent visitor and its presence always engenders excitement in our household. On this occasion the bird appeared at 1115 from under some junipers near where the Cardinal was held in the mist net. It emerged slowly, and began sunning near the sheltering shrubs.

After preening and repeated feather spreading, the Roadrunner then walked under the net and the Cardinal nearly six feet above it. The bird suddenly lunged upward, grasped the head of the Cardinal, and hung there for several seconds before dropping to the ground. The Roadrunner jumped vertically three more times, each time grasping the bird, kicking, flapping and hanging. The weight and activity of the bird tore the Cardinal free from the netting. The Roadrunner ran out of the yard with the Cardinal and under the nearby shrubbery. The entire episode took approximately 25 minutes.

Following the incident described above, the Roadrunner became a frequent visitor to the mist net. When the bird was observed in or near the shrubbery, activity by other birds in the immediate vicinity diminished. On two occasions the bird was observed taking live prey (one Cardinal and one Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*) from the net in the same manner as above. These latter incidents occurred during active banding operations. On the first occasion the Cardinal was deliberately left in the net to determine whether the Roadrunner would take the live prey. The second incident occurred before I could intervene. I therefore set a wire ground trap, baited with a dead House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) wired to the interior baffle. Within one hour the Roadrunner had trapped itself and was banded and color marked (plastic leg band). The marked bird remained in the neighborhood for approximately six more weeks, spending much of its time in the vicinity of the mist net.

The only comparable reported occurrence of avian predation on a netted bird, to my knowledge, is that by Gill and Stokes (*Wilson Bull.*, **83**: 101-102, 1971). They observed Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) deliberately attack and begin eating (skull portion) an immature male Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) caught in a mist net 21 February 1970 in Colombia, South America. The two predation incidents, i.e. ani and roadrunner, occurred during periods of presumed food shortage.—JOHN S. BARCLAY, *Department of Ecology, Fisheries and Wildlife, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074*. Received 30 March 1977, accepted 7 June 1977.