

**Incubation and nesting behavior of the Chuck-will's-widow.**—In view of the few published accounts of courtship, nesting behavior, and incubation in American goatsuckers other than the Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), the following facts concerning the Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) taken from the notebook of J. Southgate Y. Hoyt may be of interest. During the period from August 27, 1942, until January, 1944, while he was in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army in Charleston, we lived in a small cottage on the edge of Summerville, South Carolina. The cottage was part of a property known as the Tea Garden, and next to our yard, between it and the azalea- and camellia-bordered walks of the Tea Garden estate proper, was an overgrown field containing a few large pines and with the ground fairly well carpeted with needles.

The Chuck-will's-widow was calling in the vicinity the week we moved in, and we heard it until September 6. The next spring we listened for its return and on March 19, 1943, we heard the first call of the Chuck-will's-widow at approximately 7:00 p.m. (E.S.T.). The bird called about ten times and was not heard calling the rest of the night.

During the next month, on warmer evenings, the bird began calling shortly after 7:00 p.m. The calling started at the same time each evening, but its duration increased from several minutes to some hours. At the time of the full moon (which was on April 20 in 1943), the bird was joined by another and they called all through the night until daybreak. As the moon began to wane, the calling seemed confined to an hour in the evening and about an hour at dawn. Occasionally a few calls were given during the night, but the activity never compared to that of the period of the full moon. By May, calling was confined to the morning and evening periods and seemed to come from the same direction every night.

At this time we began a careful checking of the position of the birds each evening, listening for any unusual calls. On May 4, we flushed one of the birds from the ground and heard another a short distance from it. On May 5, as we investigated, "we heard a bird call to the right of the path and very close to us. We waited and soon saw a bird fly from the ground to a tree. Almost at once another bird flew to the ground at the spot where the first had flown up. The first bird doubled back and joined the second on the ground. At this time we heard some fluttering and a slight vocal *chucking*. Soon both birds flew off and we left" (field notes). We investigated the spot but found nothing.

To the best of my recollection, we did not notice the strange clapping sound nor the increase in the speed of the calls which was noted and recorded by P. P. Kellogg in Florida and published on the record of "Florida Bird Songs" (Cornell University Press), nor does Southgate's notebook mention any such sound.

On the evening of May 6: "Returning to this same area, we approached the spot carefully and flushed the bird from the ground. Going to the exact spot, we found one egg on the pine needles. The egg was typical in color and seemed large for a bird of this size." Checking the spot again on the 7th, we found that another egg had been added during the previous 24 hours.

During the next two weeks, we checked the bird cautiously, and Southgate noted that: "Always when I approach her during the day, she seems to be sleeping and is not hard to approach." On May 23: "I returned to the nesting site and found that all was well and the bird sitting tight on the eggs, not flushing till I was within a few feet of her. I set up the blind some ten feet away and got in, only to find that she

was very timid at the sight of it. I cut some bushes and placed them over and in front of the blind and returned to my post inside. This time she returned very quickly, approaching the eggs from the back. She flew to a spot some four feet from the eggs and sat there motionless with her eyes shut for about five minutes. Then she slowly waddled onto the eggs with an awkward shuffle and, spreading her breast feathers, she gave a slight hitch that raised her body over them. She then tucked the eggs well under her with her bill and finally settled down with ease and closed her eyes again. During this performance, I was taking motion pictures of her and she seemed not to mind the click of the camera." When she left the nest, she gave two small leaps on the ground, then jumped into the air and flew to a nearby limb, uttering a slight chuckle.

On May 26, Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University arrived for a short visit with us, and "we immediately investigated the nest. One egg had hatched and the young was squatting by the other egg. This makes an incubation period of 20 days for this bird." The second egg hatched on the 27th, which seemed to prove that incubation started with the laying of the first egg.

On the 28th, we found both young under a bush about ten feet from the nest site. Quoting again from the notebook: "They jump with both feet, and look like little toads or frogs, jumping on the pine-needle floor of the woods." On the 30th, we located them about 25 feet from the nest. "The parent was brooding them, and flushed when we approached very close."

The final note is on June 17, a few days after we returned from a furlough: "Several birds were flying around our yard this evening and giving the *chucking* note as they passed near us. On the fence not far from the house we could hear some strange hissing and chucking noises that sounded very much like young birds calling for food. The singing of the birds has been very much less than in the past and has been heard only in early evening and early morning."

The birds were heard calling off and on throughout the summer until September 13, when we presumed they left the area.—SALLY F. HOYT (Mrs. SOUTHCATE Y. HOYT), "*Aviana*," *Etna, New York, March 5, 1953*.

**Red Phalarope in Utah.**—In September 1951, botulism workers at Bear River Refuge picked up a partially-paralyzed Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). This appears to be the second record of the occurrence of the species in Utah, the first having been reported by C. Lynn Hayward (1937. *Wilson Bull.*, 49:304) from southern Utah.

An interesting feature of the paralysis exhibited by this individual was that the skeletal musculature of the neck remained largely unaffected. The bird's muscles of locomotion were so weakened that it could neither stand nor move its wings, but when stimulated it carried out the characteristic side-to-side "pecking" movements associated with phalaropes. The sickened bird was hospitalized, but it failed to respond and soon died.

Dr. John W. Aldrich has had a skin prepared from the badly battered remains, and (personal communication) confirms the identification. The skin is now deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Service collection in the U. S. National Museum.

The assistance of Dr. Clarence Cottam in supplying information on the previous occurrence is gratefully acknowledged.—GEORGE W. SCIPLE, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Research Laboratory, Denver, Colorado, March 13, 1952*.